

Paris moves against Iranians

PARIS (R) — France Friday demanded the recall of three Iranian diplomats and ordered the closure of the Iranian Islamic Centre in Paris, the External Relations Ministry said. The ministry said the French move followed the closure of the French Institute and the French Research Institute in Tehran. It said the three diplomats involved, who were not named, had been involved with the centre. France's relations with Iran have deteriorated over recent months with the French government's backing for Iraq in its three-year Gulf war with Iran. They reached crisis point last month when France sold five Super Etendard bombers equipped with deadly Exocet missiles to the Iraqis, a move which brought threats of retaliation from the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تيمز - جوردان تيمز - جوردان تيمز - جوردان تيمز - جوردان تيمز



Volume 8 Number 2447

AMMAN, SATURDAY DECEMBER 24, 1983 — RABIA AL AWWAL 19, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Benjedid re-elected

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid has been re-elected secretary-general of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front during the fifth conference of the ruling party. News agencies quoted a spokesman as saying that the conference immediately suggested the nomination of Mr. Benjedid for the next term as president. Under the Algerian party system the secretary general automatically assumes the presidency.

Israelis, commandos clash in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — An Israeli patrol fought a brief gun battle with commandos here Thursday, eyewitnesses said. The Palestinian news agency WAFA said several Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded in clashes in which it said machine guns and rockets were used.

Arabs questioned over Turkish blasts

ANKARA (R) — Turkish security authorities have held about 500 Arabs over the past two days for questioning following Wednesday's bomb explosions in Ankara and Istanbul, police sources said Friday. Police believe the explosions, attacks similar to recent blasts in Lebanon and Kuwait, were carried out by Middle East guerrilla teams. Five people were injured in the two blasts. The sources said most of those held were Syrians and Iranians.

Sweden expels 3 Soviets

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden has ordered the expulsion of two Soviet diplomats and another Soviet citizen after the security police reported the three had been spying on sensitive industries, diplomatic sources said Friday. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he could confirm only that the Soviet charge d'affaires was called in on Tuesday evening and told two of his staff had been involved in "activities incompatible with their diplomatic status."

Rabat sends out OIC invitations

RABAT (R) — Mohand Laensar, Moroccan minister of posts and telecommunications, left Friday for Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania to deliver invitations to their heads of state from King Hassan for the summit meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) due to be held next month in Casablanca, the Moroccan news agency MAP said.

UNITA to free foreign hostages

LISBON (R) — Angolan rebels said Friday they would hand over all their foreign captives except Czechoslovaks to the International Red Cross as a goodwill gesture for Christmas. A spokesman for UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) said five Britons and 12 Portuguese captured in central Angola last month would be among those freed.

INSIDE

- Washington says Egypt reassured over U.S.-Israel alliance, page 2
- Hassan, officials hold talks with Egyptian trade minister, page 3
- A quick withdrawal of MNF is the best option for U.S., page 4
- The forgotten 'water decade,' page 5
- Australian captain puzzled over possible Davis Cup team, page 6
- European Community lifts restriction against Soviet Union, page 7
- Irish premier demand Anglo-Irish cooperation against IRA, page 8

Arafat-Mubarak meeting kicks up Mideast furore

CAIRO (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat had the Middle East bewildered Friday by his dramatic meeting with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, the nation stunned by most Arabs because of its separate peace treaty with Israel.

Mr. Arafat was last reported to have boarded a Greek ship bound for North Yemen that had evacuated him and some 1,200 of his fighters from the Lebanese port of Tripoli on Tuesday.

Mr. Arafat's unexpected helicopter diversion to Cairo for two hours of talk with Mr. Mubarak Thursday angered Israel and provoked demands from Arab radicals for his immediate sacking as PLO chairman.

Mr. Arafat and the PLO were among those loudest in denouncing Egypt and late President Anwar Sadat for the 1979 treaty with Israel.

But on Thursday Mr. Mubarak hailed Mr. Arafat as a moderate and said his arrival in Cairo "proves that Egypt has always been right," while Mr. Arafat said the meeting would "help the unity of the Arabs."

Israel called the Arafat-Mubarak reconciliation "a severe blow to the peace process in the Middle East."

Not only did Mr. Arafat's Syrian-backed foes within the PLO denounce the meeting, but a Tunisian statement in the name of the central committee of Mr. Arafat's own Fatah guerrilla movement said it was an individual act which had contradicted PLO principles.

A keynote grievance of Mr. Arafat's PLO opponents has been his habit of taking controversial initiatives on his own.

The United States, differing with Israel, called the Cairo meeting an encouraging development which it hoped would serve to persuade Mr. Arafat that talks within the framework of President Reagan's September 1982 Middle East peace plan were the best means of achieving Palestinian goals.

Diplomats said that in going to Cairo, Mr. Arafat had made a dramatic gesture of defiance to the radicals. But it remained to be seen whether he and Jordan could now agree on a joint response to the Reagan plan and whether Mr. Arafat retained enough prestige to influence majority Palestinian opinion to go along with any deal.

Egyptian sources said Egypt, which wants a PLO-Jordanian

deal, doubted whether Mr. Arafat would make any substantive move in Middle East peace diplomacy for one to three months.

He has said he now plans to sail with his followers to Hodeida, North Yemen, then visit Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Mr. Mubarak told reporters that Egyptian warships and planes would help escort Mr. Arafat's convoy down the Red Sea.

U.S., Israel split

The United States and Israel have split over the meaning and propriety of the Arafat-Mubarak meeting.

The Reagan administration said it saw the meeting as an encouraging development which it hoped would lead to Mr. Arafat's support for Middle East peace negotiations.

But Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenfeld told a senior State Department official the talks were detrimental to the peace process and violated the spirit and letter of the Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

"We do not agree with the United States in this respect," he told reporters after meeting Under-Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. "We don't think Arafat represents anybody."

The White House and the State Department said in a joint statement: "We view renewed Egyptian-PLO discussions as an encouraging development given Egypt's adherence to the Camp David accord and its outspoken support for the Reagan initiative."

Egyptian press hails move

Egyptian newspapers Friday hailed the PLO chairman's meeting with the Egyptian president and deplored Israel's negative reaction.

But Syria's state-controlled press accused the PLO leader of betraying his people's cause and joining a U.S.-led peace "conspiracy." There was support for the meeting however from Morocco.

Cairo newspapers pictured the two leaders hugging each other at the presidential palace in the first

meeting between Mr. Arafat and an Egyptian president in more than six years.

The semi-official Al Ahram said the meeting symbolised Egypt's importance to the Palestinian cause. It said the "legitimate Palestinian leadership" should now seek support and help from Cairo for a peaceful political struggle.

The Egyptian Gazette said Mr. Arafat had shown he was willing to discuss Middle East peace moves with the major Arab power "and the one that has taken the realistic step of launching this process on the basis of diplomacy."

Describing the negative reaction from Israel as "deplorable," it said protests by Israeli and radical Palestinian groups emphasised the need for a moderate and negotiated approach to a Middle East settlement.

Syrian condemnation

Syria's state-controlled press accused Mr. Arafat of conspiring against the Palestinian cause.

"Arafat has dropped his last mask and shown himself to be deeply involved with Camp David... Arafat is now completely drowned in the conspiracy against the Palestinian cause," the government daily Tishrin said.

Tishrin said Mr. Arafat's meeting with Mr. Mubarak violated Arab summit decisions and resolutions of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's parliament-in-exile.

The daily accused Mr. Arafat of "inventing" his fight with Syria at a time when Damascus was confronting the United States and Israel. It said he staged the Tripoli fighting as a pretext to enter the Camp David Middle East peace process.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi condemned Mr. Arafat's meeting with Mr. Mubarak, the Libyan news agency JANA said. JANA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Col. Qaddafi described the meeting as a provocation in a speech at a women's gathering Thursday.

The agency quoted Col. Qaddafi as saying the Arab World had blacklisted Egypt after signing the treaty with Israel and that Cairo would remain ostracised until it tore up the peace accords.

Gulf press divided

Gulf commentators were divided on the meeting. Five member states of the Gulf

Co-operation Council — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar — severed relations with Egypt in 1979 after it signed the treaty with Israel. The sixth, Oman, retained ties.

Bahrain's daily Akhbar Al Khaledj praised the visit, saying it would "help to consolidate the Palestinian cause and strengthen Arab collaboration."

"The visit may have various positive sides if looked at without excitement. It may help the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, highly needed by the Arab nations," it said.

Saudi Arabian newspapers gave front page coverage to the talks in Cairo, but refrained from comment.

Fatah aides deplore move

In Tunis, colleagues of Mr. Arafat attacked his meeting with Mr. Mubarak, calling it an individual act contradicting the principles of the PLO.

A statement issued in the name of the Central Committee of Fatah, which is headed by Mr. Arafat and is the largest of the eight PLO guerrilla groups, said Mr. Arafat's move "came as an individual action and without the (committee's) knowledge or advice..."

The statement, issued in Tunis by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, followed a meeting of some of the Central Committee as well as at least four non-Fatah members of the 14-man PLO Executive Committee.

PLO groups' condemnation

The Fatah statement was followed by a chorus of condemnation from radical and rebel Palestinians in Syria.

"We warn the Arab countries not to deal with Arafat from this day forth and to sign no agreements with him," said Abu Saleh, leader of the rebels inside Fatah.

"We shall be sending messages to Arab, Islamic and non-aligned countries saying that Arafat is not the legal leader of the PLO," he said.

Veteran PLO radical George Habash, who has tried to stay out of the dispute so far, said: "The time for hesitation is over. Arafat must be sacked from his position as chairman of the PLO immediately."

(Continued on page 3)

Tripoli — just another hurdle along PLO's path, page 2

Palestinian dissidents begin pullout from Tripoli

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Opponents of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Thursday began a partial withdrawal from the Tripoli area, local radio stations reported, as former Prime Minister Rashid Karami returned from self-imposed exile to work out a peace plan for the city.

Mr. Karami, Tripoli's senior politician and key mediator of the deal that led to the evacuation of Mr. Arafat and his men, stayed away during the heavy fighting between rival factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

An agreement reached by Tripoli's warring factions in Damascus last week stipulated the removal of barricades from the streets and the withdrawal of armed men to allow Lebanese internal security forces to take over police duties.

Eyewitnesses said a number of Palestinian rebels, who ousted Mr. Arafat from his strongholds in north Lebanon in six weeks of battle, were seen heading out of the Tripoli area in trucks.

Mr. Karami is due to meet some Palestinian rebel commanders to work out plans for their withdrawal from positions they hold around Tripoli.

Palestinian leadership should adopt clear strategy, policy, Milhem says

By Lamis K. Andoni and Ara Voskian
Special to the Jordan Times



Mohammad Milhem
PLO leader

AMMAN — A prominent Palestinian leader has called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to adopt clear and decisive strategies that reflect the decision of the majority of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Mohammad Milhem, the exiled mayor of the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Halhoul, told the Jordan Times this week that "up until now the PLO has relied on consensus in its decision-making to maintain the unity of the organisation."

But he added, it is high time for the PLO leadership to take clear and effective resolutions on crucial issues.

The PLO leadership, Mr. Milhem said, should meet as soon as possible to formulate a unified policy that measures up to the aspirations of the majority of the Palestinians. The Palestinian mayor did not elaborate on the point but added that the PLO leadership should be able to realise what the majority of the Palestinians want.

"Moreover, the majority of the Palestinians support PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat," he said.

In Mr. Milhem's view adoption of decisive resolutions that reflect the desire of the majority will not lead to further divisions or weaken the Palestinian movement.

"Divisions have existed in the organisation since its inception," he said, "and the lack of clarity in PLO policies based on consensus gave way to different interpretations and aroused differences among them."

According to the Palestinian leader, vague resolutions have had two main negative consequences on the struggle of the PLO. First, the resolutions turned out not to be very effective as long as the various PLO groups have invariably subjected them to different interpretations. Second, those resolutions have tended to confuse the people in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"The clarity of the people's resistance (to the Israeli occupation) has emanated from and came as a reaction to the clear oppressive and aggressive policies pursued by the Israeli occupation authorities," Mr. Milhem said.

"Hence, the PLO leadership should put one unified policy for the people in the occupied territories to pursue," he added.

Mr. Milhem described the coming stage in PLO politics "as very dangerous and sensitive."

He said the PLO should define its policies regarding inter-Palestinian relations, Palestinian-Arab relations and its relations on the international level.

"House should be in order"

On the Palestinian level, "the Palestinian house should be put in order," he said, adding that this implies convening the PLO's Central Council, the Palestine National Council (PNC) and the PLO's Executive Committee to come out with decisions on internal Palestinian differences and to draw a clear policy of the coming stage.

Mr. Milhem said that some of the resolutions adopted by the PNC last February need to be clarified to prevent different interpretations by the Palestinian factions.

However, Mr. Milhem does not envisage a possible reconciliation between the leadership of Fatah, the largest PLO group led by Mr. Arafat, and rebels against the

The rebellion that erupted last May in Fatah's ranks and transformed into bloody clashes has ended with a withdrawal of Mr. Arafat and 4,000 of his forces from Tripoli, north Lebanon, last Tuesday.

Mr. Milhem, a member of a high-powered Palestinian reconciliation committee formed at the PLO Central Council last August in an attempt to heal the rift in Fatah, blamed the committee for "the deadlock" it has reached.

Mediation team blamed

"As a mediating group, the committee should have maintained an impartial position instead of siding with one party against another," he said. The 18-member committee has been indirectly but repeatedly accused by PLO circles to have sided with the rebels.

A main reason that aroused such doubts was the first memorandum issued by the committee in which it called for a formation of a "provisional committee" to take over the Fatah leadership until a Fatah congress convened; a point that was interpreted by the Fatah Central Committee as a step to undermine its legitimate authority.

Mr. Milhem stressed, however, that undermining the legitimacy of the Fatah leadership was not an intention of the committee. "If the point concerning the provisional committee was accompanied by a clarification that it did not aim to undermine Fatah central committee, the committee's mission might have succeeded in its mission," he said.

He added that the Central Committee of Fatah "was cooperative" with the reconciliation efforts.

The Palestinian mayor, who was deported by the Israelis in 1980 said that "as long as there are people who receive instructions from an external power, there will be problems in the PLO."

Mr. Milhem did not elaborate but apparently was referring to Palestinian organisations that are closely connected to certain Arab countries, because he asserted that "the PLO is not an agent of any Arab country."

PLO's independence

"The independence of the PLO should not be looked upon as contradictory to the interests of Arab countries," he said. PLO-Arab relations should be defined on the basis of "the independence of the Palestinian decision" and on what Mr. Milhem called "the positive aspects" of Arab countries' policies relating to finding a just and permanent solution for the Palestinian question.

"The PLO has to take the positive aspects that contribute to enhancing the cause," he said. "The PLO should steer away from confrontations with any Arab country."

Jordan-PLO moves

Mr. Milhem emphasised the need for restoring the "good" Palestinian-Syrian relations. Syrian-PLO relations have sharply deteriorated especially since the expulsion from Damascus of Mr. Arafat last June and Syrian backing of the Fatah rebels since May.

"We cannot ignore the role and the strength of Syria as a front-line state," Mr. Milhem said. "As Syria is a very essential element in the Arab-Israeli conflict." But "Syria could have done much more to stop the fighting in north Lebanon," he added.

He did not directly accuse Syria of "conspiring" against the PLO but remarked that "plotting against the PLO is plotting against Syrian national interests, and the inter-Palestinian fighting weakens Syria itself."

Mr. Milhem said the PLO should continue its strategy that aims at building up more international support and to continue working closely with the United Nations and other international bodies.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twenty-five Palestinian fighters loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who were evacuated from the North Lebanese city of Tripoli, arrived in Amman Thursday.

Al Ra'i newspaper said the fighters, upon their arrival at Queen Alia International Airport, praised His Majesty King Hussein's national stand and his tireless effort for guaranteeing an independent Palestinian decision.

The fighters expressed appreciation for Jordan's hospitality and facilitation of their stay in Jordan provided by the Jordanian government.

They expressed full support for the independent Palestinian decision and denounced Syrian and Libyan shelling of the Baddawi and Nahr Al Bared refugee camps in north Lebanon.

3 injured in Sidon mine blast

BEIRUT (R) — A Swiss doctor, a nurse working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and their Lebanese driver were wounded Friday when their car hit two mines in southern Lebanon, an ICRC spokeswoman said. Laure Speziali said Dr. Pierre Dizerens underwent an operation in the leg at the American Hospital in Beirut after suffering an open fracture. He was now in a satisfactory condition, she said. Sylvia Fankhauser, a Swiss nurse, and Ghassan Kesserwani, a Lebanese employee of the ICRC, were treated for minor head wounds and released. The team was passing through the Wadi Al Zeina district in southern Lebanon after visiting a clinic in the area when their car hit two land mines, Mrs. Speziali said. She said they were then caught in the middle of a gun battle and were hit by machine-gun fire before ambulances could reach them.

Pertini urges Italian withdrawal

ROME (R) — Italian President Sandro Pertini said Friday the Italian contingent of the peacekeeping force in Lebanon should be withdrawn.

In a year-end meeting with reporters at the presidential palace, Mr. Pertini said the Italian presence in Lebanon had no clear significance after the departure of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his men.

The president said he will publicly restate his position on a withdrawal in a televised year-end message to Italians on Dec. 31.

"As long as the Palestinians were there and there was a danger of a direct conflict with the Israelis, our presence in Lebanon made sense," Mr. Pertini said.

He said Italy, which has some 2,200 troops in Lebanon, risked getting entangled in a war that did not involve it.

The outspoken 87-year-old socialist president, who has often called

led for a Palestinian homeland, said the Americans were in Lebanon to defend Israel.

"Let's speak clearly, they are there in defence of Israel and not of peace and they are bombing Lebanon with tons of bombs," he said.

"Why must our soldiers die, even if they are volunteers?" he said.

Hernu in Beirut

Meanwhile, French Defence Minister Charles Hernu arrived in Beirut Friday and declared he would be spending Christmas with the French contingent of the MNF, state-run Beirut Radio reported.

The radio said Mr. Hernu would deliver a message from President Francois Mitterrand to President Amin Gemayel.

France to send arms

France is to begin delivery soon

'Islamic Jihad' threatens U.S., France

BEIRUT (R) — American and French troops are under threat from a deadly Islamic militant organisation to pull out of Lebanon by New Year's day or face "an earthquake under their feet."

The threat came from an anonymous caller Thursday who said he represented the "Islamic Jihad" (Islamic holy war) group and claimed responsibility for Beirut's latest truck bombing.

Little is known of "Islamic

Jihad" but its threats are taken seriously by Western diplomats in Beirut.

It has claimed responsibility for devastating truck bombings against French and American targets here this year and this month it shook Kuwait with six bomb blasts against mainly French and American targets.

Thursday's warning said "Islamic Jihad" was calling "for the last time" on the French and

American troops to leave within 10 days.

The caller said Wednesday's explosion of a truck bomb packed with a ton of high explosives, which killed a French paratrooper guarding a regimental command post and 14 Lebanese civilians in an apartment building, was a forerunner of things to come.

Western diplomatic sources say they believe "Islamic Jihad" militants are Shi'ite Muslims.

Arafat aide off to Tunis

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hani Al Hassan, member of the Palestinian Fatah movement, Central Committee and political advisor of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, left Amman for Tunisia Thursday to attend a meeting of the leaders of various Palestinian groups under the PLO umbrella.

MIDDLE EAST

Syrian leader expects to resume work in '84

PARIS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who has not been seen in public for six weeks, has said he is recovering from illness in a villa outside Damascus and expects to return to his office next month.

In an interview with Le Point, a French weekly magazine, Mr. Assad declined to specify his health problem. He said it had been caused by overwork and the French journalist concluded from his appearance and remarks that he had suffered heart trouble.

"I am very well today. That is what the doctors tell me, and that's how I feel," he said.

"I have had moments of fatigue, it is true. According to the doctors, the problems were due to overwork. That is why they advised me to leave Damascus for a time and live in a villa such as this one... the important thing for me was to breathe fresher and purer air."

The interview was conducted last Tuesday at the villa in the Ghouta, a fruit-growing area some 15 kilometres outside the Syrian capital.

Mr. Assad, 55, confirmed he had been in hospital before leaving Damascus. He gave a clear indication of his health problem when he said: "I still feel young, but my body and my heart do not allow me to remain as I would wish."

U.S. presence

The president said he expected to return to his office next month, and made it clear one of his major concerns was the U.S. presence in

neighbouring Lebanon.

He said U.S. peace-keeping troops there had assumed the role of combat forces and recalled that he had once told a U.S. envoy: "I guarantee we will not fight you in your own country. But if you come to ours I assure you we will fight you."

Mr. Assad told the French magazine: "I do not wish to pursue this confrontation with the United States. But I have no choice. When the Americans bombard us, we are forced to defend ourselves."

He said a Lebanese reconciliation conference in Geneva last month had produced positive results and that Syria would do all it could to promote a second round of talks.

The most important result so far had been agreement on the Arab identity of Lebanon, he said.

U.S. says Egypt reassured after discussion in Washington

By Alexander Sullivan
USIA

WASHINGTON — President Reagan has told Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali that Washington "intends to have the same relationship with our Arab friends" as Washington has with Israel, a senior administration official said.

The president met Mr. Ali to review the Middle East peace process, events in Lebanon and the future of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), as well as to receive a letter from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Ali later told reporters that Egypt is satisfied with the results of the visit and with U.S. reassurances about Washington's role in the Middle East and its ties with Israel.

The administration official said that Mr. Reagan and Mr. Ali had

discussed a number of regional matters, including the Egyptian initiative among Arab states to explain Cairo's understanding of the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

Mr. Ali told Mr. Reagan that some Arab leaders had gained the misperception that Mr. Reagan had "fundamentally changed U.S. policy" during the recent visit to Washington of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the U.S. official said.

The official said Mr. Reagan reassured Mr. Ali that "our policy remains constant, and that we want to work closely and have the same relationship with our Arab friends in the region as we pursue a comprehensive peace and regional stability. The President told the foreign minister that, as he had said to the Israelis, we intend to have the same relationship with

our Arab friends," as with Israel. Mr. Reagan said he had told the Israelis that good relations with the Arabs were vital "if we're to have any chance of bringing them together or continuing a process that started at Camp David."

"We've got to be friends all those countries," he added, and "they've got to be able to trust us that we can be fair to all of them."

The official said Mr. Ali had come to Washington "to hear directly" from American officials the U.S. view on the peace process and the current situation in the area. He said Mr. Ali re-stated Egypt's commitment to the Camp David peace process and Mr. Reagan's Sept. 1, 1982 initiative.

Mr. Ali told Mr. Reagan that Egypt viewed Mr. Arafat as continuing "to be the most popular Palestinian leader," despite the setback of his forced evacuation from Tripoli, the official said.

Iraq, Iran say force only way to end war

BAGHDAD (R) — One of the Iraq's top military leaders, was quoted as saying that massive use of force was the only way to bring Iran to the negotiating table and end the three-year-old Gulf War.

"The only way to end the Iraq-Iran war is to impose peace by force and make Iran stop the war without condition," the state-controlled newspaper Al-Jumhuriya quoted Maj.-Gen. Abdul-Rahim Taha Al-Ahmed as saying.

"The decisive way to end the war is through directing destructive blows deep in Iran, destruction of vital Iranian installations and any target that might help Iran continue its war," he said.

The general's comments appeared to confirm speculation among diplomats in the Gulf that Baghdad sees a decisive military blow against Iran as the only way to end the fighting.

Iraq has made repeated peace overtures and expressed its readiness to abide by United Nations and other calls for a ceasefire. But Tehran says it will go on fighting

until the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is toppled, and until Iraq agrees to pay billions of dollars in reparations.

In Tehran, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, called Thursday for a quick final victory by Iran in the Gulf war.

Tehran Radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling revolutionary guards and armed forces commanders: "Of course, if this war continues for another 20 years we have the power to cope with it. But as a result our nation would be troubled."

He added that there were also undesirable side-effects of the war, among them the reduction in OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) oil prices.

"Even though we can tolerate this war for some time we must end it with haste in victory," said Mr. Rafsanjani, who represents spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the supreme defence council which decides war policy.

Saudis will host next Arab summit in March

TUNIS (R) — The next Arab summit, postponed last month as fighting raged between rival Palestinian factions, will begin in Riyadh on March 31, the Arab League announced.

A statement made by the League's Tunis-based secretariat said a foreign ministers' meeting preceding the summit would start on Feb. 26 in the Saudi Arabian capital.

Saudi Arabia had postponed the summit indefinitely because of divisions in the Arab World, largely concerned with fighting in Lebanon between forces loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels.

The announcement of a new date came after 4,000 Arafat loyalists were evacuated from the north Lebanese port of Tripoli to various Arab countries following a Saudi-backed truce between the

two Palestinian sides. The summit was originally scheduled for November in Riyadh. It will be the first since one in Fez, Morocco, in September 1982 which launched an Arab Middle East peace plan seen as implicitly recognising Israel's right to exist.

The Arab League statement said its 22 members — Egypt is suspended for making peace with Israel — had to act rapidly to set aside their differences, stop the inter-Palestinian clashes and prevent Israel from taking over the territories it has occupied.

They should also try to help Lebanon overcome its troubles, and seek international support for the peace plan agreed at the last summit, it added. "The current period is not only difficult but decisive," the statement declared.

The League secretariat said it had coordinated its efforts with host country Saudi Arabia.

Algeria reaffirms support for Western Sahara independence

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has reaffirmed its support for Western Saharan independence and said the best solution to the former Spanish colony's conflict lies within the framework of North African unity.

President Chadli Benjedid stated Thursday his country's policy at a congress of its FLN.

Polisario guerrillas have said Morocco had launched a major new offensive against them in the disputed desert territory, but there was no official confirmation from Rabat.

Mr. Benjedid, whose Monday's

speech was published Wednesday and Thursday by the official daily El Moudjahid, said the Western Sahara was the main obstacle to the creation of a "great Arab Maghreb".

"The Western Sahara problem remains an obstacle on the way to implementing this gigantic historical project. We had the opportunity during meetings with our Maghreb brothers to confirm, in Algeria's name, our principled attitude concerning the right of the Saharan people to self-determination and independence," Mr. Benjedid said.

Peace group walks to Jerusalem from Seattle

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Twenty pilgrims, most of them American, will end a 12,000-kilometre walk against nuclear weapons in Bethlehem on Christmas eve, a group spokesman said.

The 20, ranging in age from 21 to 68, began their walk in April 1982 from the U.S. Trident nuclear submarine base outside Seattle, on the western coast of the

United States.

Among the 16 Catholics and four Protestants is Father George Zabelka who in 1945 blessed the U.S. squads which dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He said he had later turned to pacifism.

In addition to the 18 Americans, a Frenchman, an Iranian and a Japanese were on the walk.

U.S. desires improved ties with Iraq

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Ambassador Donald Rumsfeld's visit to Iraq last week is another indication of Washington's desire to improve relations with Baghdad, a senior administration official said Dec. 21.

Questioned about the emphasis, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali placed on Mr. Rumsfeld's meetings with President Hussein, the official said that relations between Washington and Baghdad have been

"warming up for the past four years."

He said he was sure U.S. concern about the level of violence in the Iran-Iraq war was a top subject on the Rumsfeld agenda. "Whether there will be diplomatic relations we just don't know," he said.

Mr. Rumsfeld is President Reagan's special Middle East envoy. Mr. Ali made his comments about Mr. Rumsfeld's Baghdad visit after conferring with the U.S. President

at the White House.

The official recalled that diplomatic relations with Iraq were broken off by Baghdad during the 1967 Mideast war. A U.S. interest section was opened in Iraq about five years later.

Since then, there has been what the official termed "a gradually expanding relationship... the relationship has warmed up, has been warming up for the past four years," with increasing U.S. access to the Iraqi leadership.

'U.S. asked 18 states to join MNF'

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the United States had tried in vain to get other countries to join the four-nation Beirut peacekeeping force.

He said that since the force was formed last August 18 countries had been asked to join and 15 had declined.

Mr. Weinberger, speaking to news agency reporters, did not name the countries that rejected the U.S. request for various reasons. The United States has 1,800 Marines in the existing force, Italy 2,100 troops, France 2,000 and Britain 100.

Asked about Italy's decision to reduce its force by some 1,000 men, Mr. Weinberger said this would only reduce its contribution to the original figure committed last year.

Despite terrorist attacks on the multinational force, he said, U.S. policy remained to provide the Marines as a buffer when foreign forces finally withdraw from Lebanon.

He said: "We do not feel that our national policy would be served at this time by removing our forces."

Calling the Soviet Union a major threat to the area, Mr. Weinberger said he wished more countries would have joined the peacekeeping effort. But he saw no purpose in putting the force under the United Nations.

"We think the interests of the free world are served by getting a more stable, less volatile, stronger, unoccupied Lebanon," he said.

Israel had agreed to withdraw and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was "broken as a military force," he said. But Syria had refused to pull its 40,000 troops out of Lebanon.

Tripoli: Just 1 more hurdle along PLO's unpredictable path

BEIRUT (R) — The evacuation of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas from the Lebanese port of Tripoli marks the latest crisis in a violent history that has left the organisation still far from achieving its goals.

Arab states set up the PLO in 1964 to give Palestinians a role in the fight to regain their homeland, split by the creation of Israel 16 years earlier.

Under the chairmanship of Yasser Arafat, who took command of the organisation in 1969, the PLO grew into an independent military, economic and political force.

But military setbacks and internal divisions prevented it from fulfilling its aim of establishing an independent state either through warfare or diplomacy.

The turning point for the PLO came with the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, culminating in the enforced evacuation of Palestinian guerrillas from their stronghold in west Beirut.

Mr. Arafat's decision to evacuate, scattering PLO forces throughout the Arab World, widened the rift between supporters of his diplomatic approach and hardliners who saw armed struggle as the only way to regain Palestinian national rights.

The rift led to open warfare in

northern Lebanon a year after the evacuation with the rebel backing from Syria, which had always sought to control the Palestinian movement.

Although Mr. Arafat and his men were forced to pull out, he still claims the backing of a majority of Palestinians and appears determined to retain control of the organisation.

In 1969 Mr. Arafat and his Fateh guerrillas took over what was essentially a political movement by promising to liberate Palestine by force of arms.

Fateh was the largest of several Palestinian guerrilla groups mounting military operations into Israel in the 1960s.

After the Arab defeat in the 1967 Middle East war, Mr. Arafat and his fellow guerrilla chiefs swept away an old guard of Palestinian leaders who had been dependent on the sponsorship of Arab governments.

The PLO succeeded in making itself the focal point of the Arab-Israeli conflict, gaining recognition from the Arab states and most of the Third World as sole representative of an estimated four million Palestinians.

The PLO earned a reputation among its friends in the Third World and the Eastern Bloc as the

world's foremost national liberation movement.

Diplomatic inroads

The PLO made diplomatic inroads in the West and Western Europe came to regard its participation as vital in any settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Mr. Arafat won the movement's independence from the Arab states in 1974 when an Arab summit recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Within a month, Mr. Arafat travelled to the United Nations General Assembly in New York to deliver an offer to negotiate a settlement of the Palestine question: "I have come bearing an olive branch and a freedom fighter's gun. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand."

When Syria entered Lebanon in 1976 to end the civil war and prevent the Falangists from being defeated by a PLO-leftist coalition, the Palestinians came into direct conflict with Syrian forces.

But the PLO survived to mend its fences with Syria and became a significant force in chaotic post-war Lebanon, drawing accusations that it operated as a state within a state.

The guerrilla movements gro-

upped in the PLO continued to suffer at the hands of the Israelis. They were pushed back from South Lebanon in a 1978 invasion and, in a much larger operation in 1982, were forced out of Beirut after a three-month siege.

The leadership dispersed to Damascus and other Arab capitals while Mr. Arafat maintained a roving diplomat role, loosely based in Tunis.

The PLO won some international sympathy for having held out in Beirut against such heavy odds and as a result of the subsequent massacre of Palestinian refugees by Israel's rightist Lebanese allies.

Damaging feud

But this sympathy dissipated to some extent as the PLO broke up into squabbling factions. Mr. Arafat returned to Lebanon but became increasingly isolated as more and more of his former supporters joined the ranks of hardline rebels.

Under Mr. Arafat, PLO demands effectively added up to the establishment of an independent state in Israeli-occupied territories, although Israel insisted the movement's ultimate aim was the destruction of the Jewish state. The factional war put the future

structure and aims of the PLO in the balance. Until then, the movement had succeeded in building up a sophisticated infrastructure it hoped would provide the foundations of a future state.

Using Arab funding, it set up educational and medical services, trade unions and business enterprises. It also established a parliament-in-exile that encompassed a wide range of Palestinian opinion in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Iraqis sink Iranian ship

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its navy Friday sank an Iranian salvage ship which had been trying to save a damaged vessel near the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini in the Gulf.

A military spokesman said the Iraqi navy had sunk the Iranian ship as it tried to rescue an "enemy" vessel hit by Iraqi warplanes Thursday.

The spokesman said the Iraqi navy also sank the damaged vessel which he did not identify.

The vessel was one of three "enemy naval targets" hit by Iraqi warplanes as it approached Bandar Khomeini in a convoy Thursday.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:10 Children Programmes
18:20 Documentary
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:20 Arabic Series
21:30 Local Programme on Jordan
22:10 Arabic Play
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 M.A.S.H.
21:00 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:10 Feature Film: The Gift - Gary Frank
23:00 Classical Music
00:55 Live transmission from Rome: Midnight Christmas Mass

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.00 KHz, SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
07:50 Morning Show
08:00 News Summary
08:10 Oriental Foods
08:15 Morning Show
11:00 News Summary
11:40 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:20 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:40 Catch the Words
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Instrumentals
14:30 Jordan Weekly/Music
15:00 Concert Floor
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Music
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
18:30 News
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Book Club

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Kings of Jazz
06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections
07:00 World News 07:05 British Press
07:15 About Britain 07:30 New Ideas 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:20
08:30 World News 08:35 Motive for Murder
08:45 News about Britain 09:15 From the Weeklies 09:30 Classical Record Review
09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Flanagan
10:20 World Quote, Unquote 11:00
11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial
News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 A Chapel
of the World 12:15 What's New 12:30
Just a Minute 12:50 World News 12:55
World News 01:30 Motive for Murder
14:00 News about Britain 14:15 About
Britain 14:30 The Mistletoe Bough
14:40 Radio Newsworld 14:45 Anything
Goes 14:45 A Lift in the Rain 15:00
World News 15:05 Commentary 15:15
Network UK 15:30 Motive for Murder
16:00 London's Concert Tradition 16:30
A Chapel to the World 17:00 Radio
Newsworld 17:05 Festival of Nine Lessons
and Carols 18:30 Hancock's Half-Hour
19:00 News 19:05 Baker's Half
Dozen 19:40 Book Choice 19:45 The
Gift 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Play of the
Week 21:30 Album Time 22:00 World
News 22:05 Commentary 22:15 Good
Books 22:30 To Fly Where the Sun
Never Sets 23:15 What's New 23:30
Hancock's Half-Hour 24:00 World
News 24:05 Mistletoe Bough 00:40 Re-
fection 00:45 Flanagan and Swann 01:00
World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15
Letterbox 01:30 A Chapel to the World

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; editorial; world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; American viewpoints; features 17:00 News 17:10 This Week

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

* Orientalists' paintings at the Alla Art Gallery.

* Paintings by Yusef Huseini at the Alla Art Gallery.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Cultural Library 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hays Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m., Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qaf's (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia: dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Loon Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 130 p.m.
Loon Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, 37441.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.
American Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 72561.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Assume International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

05:07 Fair
06:35 (Sunrise) Shuruf
11:15 Dhuhur
14:19 Asr
16:36 Maghreb
18:04 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alfa information departments at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:00 Cairo (EA)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)
08:20 Isfahan (RJ)
08:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
13:00 New York (RJ)
14:40 Kuwait (KAC)
16:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
16:45 Larana (RJ)
17:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
17:00 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (EA)
18:30 Beirut (MEA)
19:00 Tripoli (RJ)
23:00 Cairo (EA)
00:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:45 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:45 Cairo (EA)
07:30 Beirut (RJ)
07:30 Agaba (RJ)
08:20 Isfahan (RJ)
08:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
13:00 New York (RJ)
14:40 Kuwait (KAC)
16:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
16:45 Larana (RJ)
17:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
17:00 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (EA)
18:30 Beirut (MEA)
19:00 Tripoli (RJ)
23:00 Cairo (EA)
00:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:45 Baghdad (RJ)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in JLD
Belgian franc 66.17 / 66.5
Dutch guilder 119.9 / 120.6
Egyptian guinea 322 / 326.3
French franc 44.1 / 44.4
Iraqi dinar 373.3 / 381.7
Italian lire (for 100) 22.2 / 22.4
Japanese yen (for 100) 158.8 / 159.8
Kuwaiti dinar 1271

WHO to establish regional research centre in Jordan

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A multi-disciplinary Research and Training Centre for Environmental Health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region will be established in Jordan, according to the chief of World Health Organisation (WHO) Environmental Health Programme, Mohammad Islam Sheikh.

The setting up of the regional centre was decided at the end of a five day inter-country consultation meeting on environmental health held in Amman from Dec. 18 until Dec. 22 at the Amman Hotel.

The Eastern Mediterranean Regional Conference on Environmental Health which was inaugurated by the Minister of Health Zuhair Mahas was organised by the ministry in cooperation with WHO.

The conference was attended by six international experts in the field of environmental health, as well as by environmental specialists representing seven countries situated in WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Sheikh who was also designated as the secretary of the conference said that the government of Jordan has agreed to host the centre and "negotiations in this respect will soon start with hopes that in 1984 the construction of the centre will start."

Asked about the aim of establishing such a centre and about the source of funding the project, Dr. Sheikh said it is to serve the whole region in undertaking environmental health researches and in gathering information to solve and treat environmental health problems.

The cost of the project will be provided from WHO's own budget but "since its activities will be extensive, WHO will approach richer member states as well as international and regional banks to support the project."

Aims of the conference

Before giving a brief account on the working plan adopted by the

conference, Dr. Sheikh said that the aim of the conference was "to assess the situation in the region in regard to environmental health problems and possible solution that could be reached at."

He pointed out that there are 25 countries within WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region with a population of around 250 million, of which 55 to 60 per cent live in rural areas. "Some of them are in dire poverty and are underdeveloped while others are very rich and live in oil producing countries."

In accordance with WHO's Primary Health Care programme, Dr. Sheikh said that WHO and the related countries should lay emphasis on rural areas especially for water and sanitation which is the most essential component of that programme.

It was in that context, he added, that the conference looked at this problem particularly for assessing the technologies available and suggesting means to innovate additional, appropriate and low cost technologies.

Shifting from the main task focused upon, during the conference, Dr. Sheikh said that the conference agreed on a working plan which included identification of priority research areas, guidelines for regional research and delineation of areas for possible WHO collaboration.

Regarding the priority research areas, Dr. Sheikh said that the goal of the environmental health research is to provide information, develop solutions, and formulate requirements which guide national policies and actions towards improving the protection and the quality of public health.

In respect to the primary environmental health factors to be addressed in this research consultation, he said, they will be those related to community water supply and sanitation. In the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and Primary Health Care approach of the year 2000.

The conference, Dr. Sheikh said, has revealed the existence of seven research areas that are of regional significance and these are: State of the art reviews, tra-

ining and development of capabilities, community participation and health education, development and adaptation of field sampling, environmental monitoring for baseline data, specific health indicators and regulations development.

The other research priorities, Dr. Sheikh added, were divided into four categories which are water supply, wastewater disposal, solid waste disposal and others such as hazardous chemical, air pollution and rodents.

Research guidelines

Regarding the guidelines for regional research working plan, Dr. Sheikh said that it include general and specific objectives.

The general objectives, he said, is to establish the research centre, strengthen national institutions and establish support service including libraries, audio-visual facilities, computer-based information systems and manual development capabilities.

The specific objectives on the other hand, he said, is setting up regional priorities in research, arranging regional collaboration, standardise research methodologies, developing regional training programmes and many others.

About delineation of areas for possible WHO collaboration, Dr. Sheikh said that the WHO technical cooperation with member states will be primarily in the field of organisation and development of national focal points for the promotion of environmental health research.

Secondly, he added, the cooperation will be in the development and strengthening of research institutions including manpower development for effective multi-disciplinary collaboration.

Another cooperation, Dr. Sheikh said, will be in the development and strengthening of national information services for the collection, assessment and dissemination of information on appropriate technologies.

The last WHO assistance will be in strengthening the mechanisms for the transfer of appropriate technologies in environmental health at the national and international levels, he said.

Dr. Sheikh giving a general assessment on the conference said: "It is really a success in that it was a very homogeneous group and because we were able to achieve our objectives, complete the agenda and produce a set of valuable recommendations."

Dr. Sheikh concluded that the results of this consultation meeting will be implemented once the WHO executive body approves it and this will take place in March 1984, in Tunis.

DC-2 lands

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — KLM's (Royal Dutch Airlines) DC-2 "Uiver" (stork), the airplane which took part in the legendary London-Melbourne race of 1934, Friday landed at the old Amman Airport in Marka at 4:45 p.m.

About 50 years ago the DC-2, with a four-man crew led by Captain Parmentier and three passengers on board, started off the race with 19 other airplanes at Mildenhall near London.

The Dutch airplane won the first prize in the race that kept the entire world in a state of excitement.

Fifty years later, and after two years of intensive preparations, a group of enthusiastic Dutchmen decided to fly again the race, which covers a distance of more than 21,000 kilometres, using the same aircraft and taking the same route.

The airplane's pilot, Captain Jan Plesman, said, in an interview with the Jordan Times that tense moments were experienced throughout their journey.

The airplane took off on Dec. 18, from Mildenhall, near London, heading towards Marseille in France, but had to land in Lyon, because of high terrain and heavy snow.

After Marseille, the flight encountered heavy thunderstorms and for a while it had to travel at the altitude of 50 to 60 metres on the way to the Island of Corfu, in Greece.

One of the problems, Capt. Plesman said, was faced when they landed at Brindisi in Italy, for refuelling. They were not able to do so because "there was no private fuel available, and had to seek the help of the military, who provided us with the needed fuel."

In Athens, the airplane's exhaust pipe was broken and with the help of the Olympic Airways officials it was repaired.

On Dec. 22, the airplane flew from Athens to Laraca then to Aleppo and at 2:30 p.m. Friday the airplane took off from Aleppo to land at the Amman Airport.

The flight is currently 50 minutes ahead of schedule, Capt. Plesman said.

On Saturday at 8 p.m. the airplane will take off from Amman to Abu Dhabi to resume its journey, passing through Karachi, Allahabad, Rangoon, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta, Bali, Timor and then to Melbourne in Australia.

The flight is expected to arrive in Melbourne on Feb. 5. According to Capt. Plesman, throughout the trip the crew were always warmly welcomed wherever they landed.

At Amman Airport the crew were welcomed by acting Director of Civil Aviation Mahmoud Bakaz, Director of the Arab Wings Sharif Ghazi Rakan, Commander in chief of the Royal Jordanian Air Force Brigadier Ihsan Shardon and KLM Manager in Jordan.

Hassan, officials hold talks with Egyptian minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday received in his office visiting Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mustafa Sa'id, during which they exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest and economic and trade relations between Jordan and Egypt, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour and head of Egyptian Interests Section in Jordan Nabil Badr.

Minister of Transport Ali Suhaimat also received Dr. Sa'id Thursday. During their meeting the two ministers agreed that the Egyptian side would study the feasibility of operating cruises between Aqaba Port and the Egyptian sea resort of Nuweiba.

Prospects for establishing public or private sector companies for this purpose were also discussed in the meeting. The outcome of the Egyptian study will be submitted to the government for consideration, Petra said.

During the meeting, which was attended by Ali, the Royal Jordanian Airline, President and Chairman Ali Ghandour, the Egyptian side presented an elaborate explanation for the fines imposed on Ali for its extra flights to Egypt and discussed the reasons behind the organisation of these flights.

Dr. Sa'id expressed readiness to solve the problem with the Egyptian minister of civil aviation in the light of a memorandum to be submitted by Ali for this purpose.

Mr. Ghandour explained the issue of Ali deposits in Egyptian banks due to have been remitted in 1982 and the need for facilitating such a process. Dr. Sa'id asked for a list of delayed payments in order to work out a solution for the problem, on his return to Cairo. He promised that Ali deposits would be reviewed on a monthly basis to guarantee their easy flow regularly.

Also Thursday, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi discussed with Dr. Sa'id ways for broosting trade exchange between Jordan and Egypt and activating cooperation between central and commercial banks in the two countries.

The two sides also reviewed financial and monetary policies in the two countries and prospects for exchanging experiences in this field. A joint venture in banking and the opening of a credit line to aid trade and economic exchange

with Israel in 1979.

A trade agreement signed in 1967 was of limited value with the volume not exceeding 12 million (\$32.4 million). Dr. Sa'id said.

Under the deal, to be signed on Dec. 25, the two countries will reciprocally remove all levies on imports from each other.

The banking venture involves the Egyptian Arab Land Bank in Jordan which is to give majority shares to Jordanian nationals.

The Egyptian minister said discussions would begin shortly on converting the Arab Land Bank into a joint venture, possibly with a capital of six million dinars (\$16.2 million), in which Egypt would hold 40 per cent equity.

The bank, which began operating in Jordan in 1951, has a paid up capital of two million dinars (\$5.4 million) at present.

"We are not pressing for the resumption of ties with Egypt, but we shall be ready to cooperate when the Arabs realise that good relations with Egypt is good for us all," Dr. Sa'id said.

Dr. Sa'id will return home on Sunday.

On Wednesday, one day after his arrival in Jordan, the Egyptian minister said trade exchange between Egypt and Israel is at its lowest levels, and is currently at a volume of \$1 to 2 million a year.

Dr. Sa'id told the Jordanian daily Al Ra'i that Israeli exports do not satisfy Egypt's import demands, and added that the boycott of Egypt by Arab countries has led to a great loss, for the Arab World, and resulted in jeopardising the drive for the investment of Arab resources for Arab development and the creation of an advanced Arab force capable of realising national goals.

The Egyptian minister expressed optimism regarding Egypt's role in the Arab World, and pointed out that Egypt's relations with the Arab countries are good and natural.

There are numerous achievements waiting to be accomplished in the Arab World with the participation of Egypt, Dr. Sa'id said.

SPECIAL PRODUCTS FOR CHRISTMAS NOW AVAILABLE AT KHALAF STORES

- Fresh Cheese
- Wild & Game Pheasants Wood Cock
- Frog Legs
- Scottish Smoked Salmon
- Smoked Eels



Arafat meets Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Hahash's small but influential Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has joined rebel calls for reform but was against the fighting between the factions and hitherto refrained from direct criticism of Mr. Arafat.

The pro-Libyan Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) said the Arafat-Mubarak meeting showed that "Arafat's treachery has become obvious" and that his meeting with Mr. Mubarak meant Mr. Arafat was recognising the Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), led by Nayef Hawatmeh, also attacked the meeting, as did the tiny Popular Struggle Front.

The DFLP, another group that has stayed on the sidelines, said Mr. Arafat's trip had grave implications for PLO unity and violated resolutions passed by the PNC.

Ahu Saleh, who as leader of the Fateh rebels called last Sunday for Mr. Arafat's resignation, demanded an urgent meeting of the PLO's Executive Committee, its ruling body.

It was not clear what the rebels could expect from a meeting of the Executive Committee since it is chaired by Mr. Arafat himself.

But the PFLP-GC, whose leader Ahmad Jibril was at the head of the guerrillas besieging Mr. Arafat in Tripoli, called on the Executive Committee to determine its final position "because Arafat is no longer capable of being part of it."

The radical group said Mr. Mubarak was "a keen student of his predecessor," the assassinated Sadat.

The chairman of the PNC, Khalid Fahoum, who lives in Syria, also criticised the Arafat-

Mubarak meeting, saying it violated the council's resolutions.

The Syrian-backed commando group Al Saiga also added its voice to the criticism of Mr. Arafat for going to Cairo.

In three Greek ships, Mr. Arafat and fighters loyal to him were passing through Suez headed for North Yemen after being evacuated on Tuesday from Tripoli, Lebanon, where they had been under siege for six weeks by Syrian-backed PLO rebels.

Mr. Arafat was last in Cairo in 1977 when the late Sadat announced he was ready to fly to Jerusalem in quest of peace with Israel. Mr. Arafat left soon afterwards and later denounced Mr. Sadat's subsequent Camp David accords and the U.S.-sponsored peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Speaking earlier to reporters aboard his ship, the Odysseas Elytis, sailing from Lebanon, Mr. Arafat said he wanted to help Egypt, as he put it, shake off the burden of the Camp David accords with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak told reporters that Mr. Arafat's visit to the Egyptian capital "proves that Egypt has always been right." He said he welcomed Mr. Arafat as "a moderate leader of the Palestinians" and that he wished him success on his journey.

In comments to reporters between the two hours of formal talks with Mr. Mubarak and a working lunch together, Mr. Arafat simply stressed the theme of Arab unity. He also referred to the Al Aqsa in Jerusalem, a holy shrine of Islam, where Mr. Sadat prayed in 1977.

"What is important for me is that this visit will help the unity of the Arabs," said a beaming Arafat, clad in traditional military fatigues and chequered headress.

Turning to Mr. Mubarak, also smiling broadly, he said: "Inshallah (God willing), we will both pray at Al Aqsa."



Paul Prédault

Presents his Christmas Products at KHALAF STORES Jabal al-Wiehdleh

Whatever happened to the World Water Decade

By John Madele

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Are the United Nations, the international aid agencies and the national governments trying to quietly shelve the "World Water and Sanitation Decade, 1981-90" after only two years?

In 1980 the then U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim said the official goal of "clean water and adequate sanitation for all by 1990" was "eminently achievable". He promised:

"The United Nations system will provide the overall framework, the technical support, the momentum and the promotional activities necessary for the programme's success".

Yet, less than three years later, senior World Health Organisation (WHO) officials were saying "we knew all the time" that achievement of the decade's goal "was not possible".

What has gone wrong? In an official update on the decade (prepared for a meeting with European

Journalists here), WHO listed five major constraints: "The absence of strong popular and official support, weak institutions, shortage of trained personnel, doubts about technology and insufficient financial resources".

These problems threaten to cripple the decade. By the end of 1982 only 26 countries had set firm targets for 1990, and many were aiming at less than the 100 per cent target called for by the U.N. and its agencies.

Lack of money is the key obstacle. In 1980 the World Bank estimated that a global annual investment of \$60 billion would be needed throughout the 1980s to provide every rural home with a latrine and a standpipe or handpump, and every urban home with a tap and sewerage connection. A cheaper option was to aim at only 80 per cent coverage using cheaper technologies, cutting the investment by half to \$30 billion.

As global spending on water and sanitation projects in 1978 had only been \$7 billion, the second option was considered more realistic. So the 100 per cent aim of the decade was virtually abandoned even before it had begun. Since then the decade has not attracted much more money for new projects. In 1981 only \$10 billion went into new projects, which, allowing for inflation, meant that about the same number of additional water and sanitation services were provided as in 1978.

The developing countries invested \$8 billion of that \$10 billion. Given their suffering economies, they are unlikely to increase that amount.

At the same time, international aid has been lower than expected. Even the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), coordinator of decade activities, has reduced its funds for water and sanitation projects from \$14 million in 1980 — before the decade began — to \$6.5 million in 1982.

World Bank loans for water and sanitation too plummeted from an average of \$572 million a year between 1977 and 1981, to \$441 million in 1982.

Every single day between 24,000 and 60,000 children under

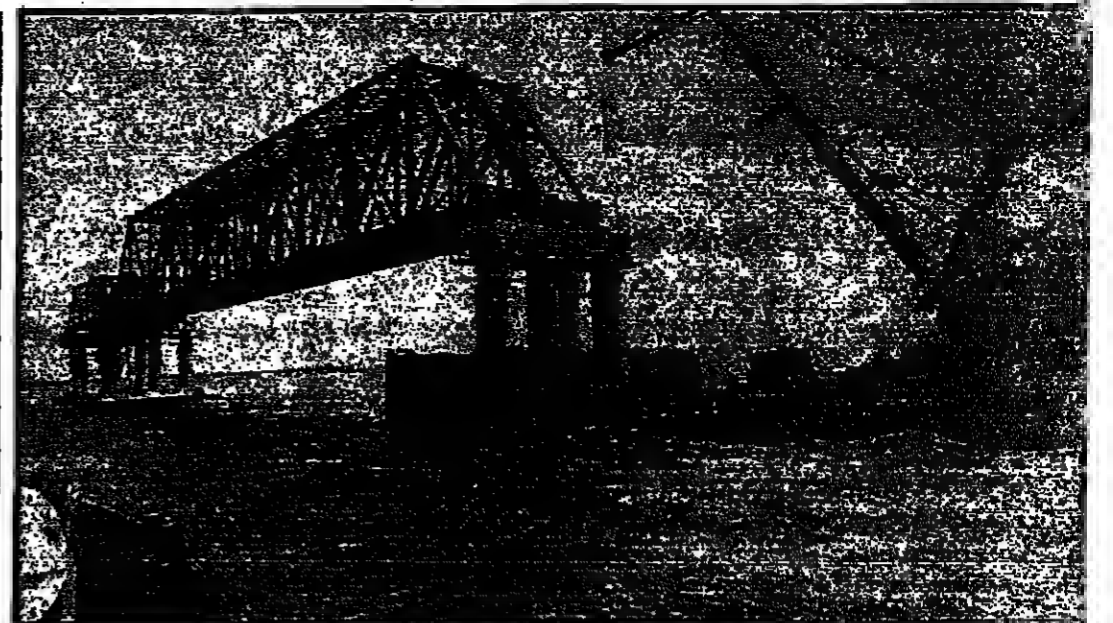
the age of five die of water-related diseases, according to WHO estimates. In recognition of this, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) spends 20 per cent of its money of water and sanitation projects worldwide. Yet even UNICEF spends only 10 per cent of its water and sanitation budget on sanitation. That is only 2 per cent of its total budget. Ironically, UNICEF has a reputation among U.N. agencies for its concern for sanitation.

In many countries the institutions which are supposed to be implementing the decade's work are weak and lack trained staff. WHO, which says that technological problems are a major difficulty, has not itself done very much about this lack of training. It has not devoted any more money for training, and it has not recruited a single additional water engineer since the decade began.

UNICEF's senior water specialist Martin Beyer believes that the decade's most serious problem is that many local communities do not accept "that they need clean water". He believes that national governments must give greater priority to educating people about the benefits of clean water.

Dr. Berndt Dieterich, WHO's director of Environmental Health, believes that the decade is gaining momentum and that more people are becoming aware of the importance of clean drinking water. He says the key question is: "Are we going to get the resources?"

If not, the decade's aim of providing safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for all by 1990, and WHO's more ambitious goal of "Health for All" by the year 2000 will become little more than cruel jokes — Earthscan feature.



The foundation is laid down for a steel structure in the body of the anti-flood dike in the Gulf of Finland (TASS photo).

Diking off Leningrad against the Baltic flood

LENINGRAD: — The Neva River is the chief sight in the city of Leningrad. The city would not be Leningrad without the river and its numerous bridges across the main stream, the delta branches, and canals and tributaries.

Yet, the river, its delta and the whole system of canals have constituted a constant menace to Leningrad: Cyclons brewing above the North Atlantic, kick up the so-called long rolling sea in the Baltic. The sea rools eastward, runs into the shallow Gulf of Finland and gains speed and height, the shallower, the higher. Arriving to Leningrad, the sea burst into the Neva's mouth, raising quickly the river's level.

As the river's water is held back by the sea, it adds to the flood. The level may rise by several metres.

Leningrad has been flooded this way over 250 times. Now the city is running a warning service which produces warnings a few hours before the actual flood. Though there is no loss of life, the damage inflicted by the flood may be great.

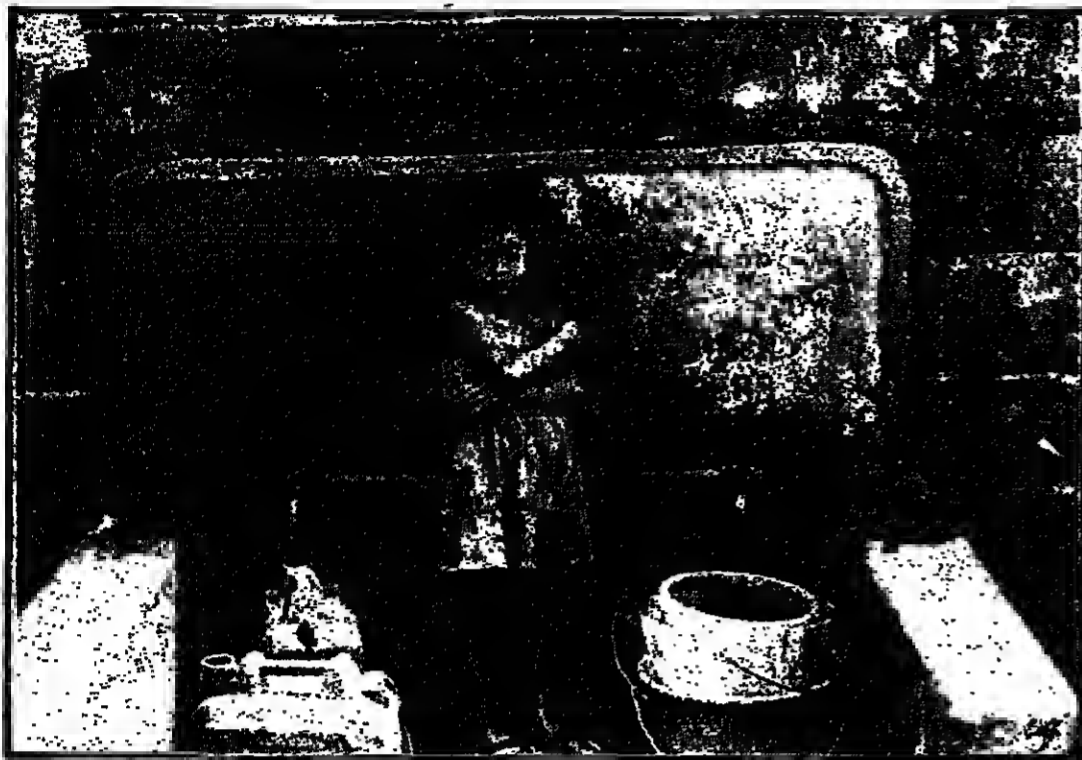
Scientists have developed a project to defend the city against the floods — a 25 kilometre dike which will cut across the Gulf of Finland. The dike is currently built at three points: From the Gulf's northern and southern sides and from the Kotlin Island.

The dike's body of stone and earth will stop the long rolling sea

and hold its back off it subsides. There will be gaps in the dike to drain off the Neva's water, and gates for ships bound to and from Leningrad's seaport. The gates and spills will be clamped tight at the weather service's flood warning, by heavy steel flaps barring the way to long rolling seas.

There will be built a motorway along the crest of the dike which will ease off heavy traffic inside the city.

The project includes several million cubic metre earth-moving, assembling of a few thousand tons of steel structures, lay down a few underwater tunnels and other work. The dike is to be completed in a few years — TASS feature.



A Filipino girl waits for water. Slightly more than two years into the World Water Decade (1981-90), funds from the United Nations, the World Bank and national governments appear to be drying up. (Earthscan photo).

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

Palace and Gardens
Buffet Luncheon
at
Al Yarmouk Restaurant
For reservation
Please call:
665121-3
Amman

FRESH FISH
Daily at the Crown Rollerie
Amman's Finest Restaurant
For Res. Call
41361-5

فندق ريجنسي بالاس
The Regency Hotel
NIGHT CLUB
The Egyptian Theatre
SHAW'S NIGHT CLUB
with the Regency Band
Res. for Christmas and New Year's Eve
Party Call 660808/13

Marriott
ماريوت
Join us for the Holiday Festivities
for Information Call
Amman Marriott Hotel
Tel. 660100

THE LOUNGE BAR
is the ideal place to
meet with friends
and enjoy a glass of
beer or your choice
of cocktails
HAPPY HOUR
Daily 5-8 p.m.

BLUE ROOM RESTAURANT
777 JORDAN STREET
AMMAN
TEL. 665161-62-63
FAX. 93

CHINESE RESTAURANT
TAIWAN TOURISMO
3rd Circle, Jabal Amman
Opp. Akilah Hospital
Try our specialties:
Peking Duck
and Flaming Pot
also Traditional Chinese dishes
Open daily
12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - midnight
Tel. 41093

CHINA RESTAURANT
ABOVE HOMAN
SUPERMARKET
The first and best Chinese
restaurant
in Aqaba
Take-away service available
Open daily 11:30 - 3:30 - and 6:30
11:00
AQABA, Tel. 4415

SCANDINAVIAN SHOWROOM
★ Living rooms
★ Dining rooms
★ Bedroom sets
★ Wall units
★ Lighting fixtures
★ Club for children
★ Modern Danish design
★ Feather upholstery
★ Danish-Pack Homes
★ Tax-free if applicable
Tel. 663890 Civil defence street

IN SABASTIA RESTAURANT
KOREAN
JAPANESE
EUROPEAN
FOOD
One of the best
hotels in Amman
THE AMBASSADOR
Tel. 665161-62-63
FAX. 93

Join the Inn Crowd at ...
Régina's
Disco
with
D.J. Extraordinaire
Chris Burnett
Join the Inn Crowd at ...
THE HOLIDAY INN®
THE RANCH
Live music & Show at
The Ambassador Night Club
call 663100 for reservations

RESTAURANT CHINA
Airconditioned
The first & best
Chinese Restaurant
in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman,
near Ahllyah Girls School
Open daily
12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - Midnight
Tel. 38968

SHAKHSIR
Rent A Car
Mercedes & Datsun
Middle East Hotel
Tel: 668958
667159 667160 ext. 124
P.O. Box 9122
Amman, Jordan

The MasterCard Credit Card.
Now
in Jordan
Welcome at the
best hotels,
restaurants, airlines,
car rental companies,
travel agencies and
select stores in Jordan
and the Middle East.
MasterCard®
Use it with utmost confidence

We Offer The Ultimate in Service
We now have our Buffet
in the Rooftop Restaurant
every Friday and Sunday
Enjoy the view of Amman
in warm surroundings
and have an excellent
selection of hot and cold
continental and oriental
dishes.
Hala Inn
Tel. 44642 Near Khalidi Hospital

To advertise in
this section
Phone 666320

To advertise in
this section
Phone 666320

To advertise in
this section
Phone 666320

CROWN INTERNATIONAL WORLDWIDE
Specialists in local & international removals
• shipping & forwarding (air, land, sea)
• storage • packing • crating • clearing
• door-to-door service
CROWN INTERNATIONAL EST.
Amman, Jabal Hussein - First Circle
Tel. 664090 - Tel. 22205 BESAMCO JO.
Aqaba Tel. 5778

Aqaba, a holiday resort
paradise on the Red Sea.
Stay with us and enjoy our
traditional warmth and
hospitality combined with
excellent service.
Try out our superb
RESTAURANT or join in
on one of our nightly
POOLSIDE BARBECUE'S.
The perfect holiday at the
AQABA TOURIST HOUSE HOTEL.
For reservations call us any-
time on (032) 5165.

MIRAMAR HOTEL
Aqaba
Room rates:
Single JD 6.
Double JD 11.
Triple JD 14.
Family apartment JD 20.
Continental breakfast included
Special rates for monthly residents and groups.
Please call tel. 4330 - 4341 -
Aqaba
Tel. 62275

MIRAMAR HOTEL
Aqaba

SPORTS

Australian captain puzzled over possible Davis Cup team

MELBOURNE (R) — The choice of Australia's singles players for the Davis Cup final against Sweden starting at Kooyong here on Monday became even more perplexing on Friday for non-playing captain Neale Fraser.

Fraser admitted after a daylong practice session that "the position has never been more open."

Australia's captain for the past 13 years, Fraser said he would have a deep think before deciding the situation on Saturday night, and "the light might be on a little later than usual."

The draw is due to be made at Kooyong on Christmas morning and Fraser said he might have to delay telling his team who had won the singles berths until then. "I thought 'A' and 'B' would be playing but it does not seem that way today," he added.

Fiery teenage star Pat Cash and John Fitzgerald were the key players in Australia's semi-final victory over France. But Fitzgerald has suffered from inconsistent form and tension this week, while Cash has been subject to bouts of temper which have threatened to disrupt the team.

On the other hand, Australia's likely doubles combination of Paul McNamee and Mark Edmondson showed sparkling singles form Friday as they played sets on the centre court.

Meanwhile, the Swedish team members are due to be told their places on Saturday, but on Friday they concentrated on a hard workout for the crack doubles combination of Hans Simonsson and Anders Jarryd.

Swedish coach Hans Olsson said he was impressed with the form of Joakim Nystrom, recent winner of the New South Wales Open. Nystrom is pitted against the experienced Jarryd for the second singles spot behind Australian Open Champion Mats Wilander.

For Australia, the lively McNamee demonstrated Friday he deserved serious consideration for a singles spot, while Edmondson,

described by Fraser as looking "as strong as a bull", played near-perfect serve and volley tennis.

McNamee had a sharp edge over Cash in the first session and the 18-year-old's temper flared briefly when he missed a return. He hurled his racket onto the court, smashing it in two.

Following the incident, Fraser sat down with Cash for a quiet, private "talk about things in general."

On Thursday Cash walked angrily from the stadium after losing a set to John Fitzgerald and then exchanging words with Fraser.

McNamee also shocked a tense Fitzgerald during a later workout, scampering furiously around the court hitting winners down both lines while Fitzgerald squandered countless chances at winning volleys.

"McNamee seems to be the one least hyped up. The others are more tense," Fraser said.

"With their make-up today it seems they can't relax and enjoy the practice session."

Fraser's concern, though, is that his players will play different styles of game in practice and in the cup final.

"I want the two who will play best against the two Swedes to be picked," he said. "After today, I can convince myself to play everyone of them."

He was also concerned about the well-grassed centre court surface, which he felt was "very greasy and dangerous."



Egyptian captain Hamdi Nuh (left) heading the ball while Jordan's goalkeeper (No. 1) Milad Abassi attempting to block his goal (Photo by Yusef Al-Arian)

Egyptians beat Jordanians

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting Egyptian national team Friday beat the Jordanian national team 3-1 in a football match at Al Hussein Sports City stadium organised under the patronage of His Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein. The match was viewed by His

Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, the ministers of information and justice, Amman mayor and 25,000 football fans. The match was also viewed by the visiting Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, Mustafa Sa'id.

Spain, Yugoslavia complete European soccer finals line-up

PARIS (R) — Spain and Yugoslavia have grabbed the last two places to complete the eight-team line-up for next June's European Soccer Championship finals in France, but they could not have cut it finer.

Spain pulled off what had looked a hopeless task by beating Malta 12-1 in Seville Wednesday night to achieve an 18-goal winning margin and clinch Group Seven ahead of the Netherlands.

The Dutch had seemed home and dry after beating Malta 5-1 last week, but Carlos Santillana

and Hipolito Rincon notched four goals apiece. Antonio Maceda netted two and Manuel Sarabia and Juan Senor added the others to deny them.

Defender Senor, who had missed a penalty after three minutes, hit the winner five minutes from time to see Spain through on goal aggregate ahead of the Dutch.

Yugoslavia had defender Ljubomir Radanovic to thank for the

goal in the dying seconds which gave them a 3-2 win over Bulgaria in split and the qualifying place from Group Four.

Bulgaria had missed a chance moments before to make it 3-2 in their favour — which would have given them the group — while Wales were denied the stalemate between the Balkan rivals which would have made them sole qualifiers from the British Isles.

For Rent

A furnished new house consisting of one bedroom, living room, modern kitchen and bath, with central heating, independent entrance, garden and telephone.

Location: Opposite Shmelsani Bookshop.
Please call Tel. 663981

DE LUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Apartment consisting of three bedrooms, guest room, sitting room, dining room, two bathrooms, spacious kitchen, one veranda with telephone and central heating.

Location: Jebel Amman 5th Circle
For further information please call: 616426 after 12 noon.

Deluxe furnished semi villa for rent

Consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, large kitchen, salon, sitting room, veranda and independent entrance, with a garage for two cars, telephone, colour TV, video, modern European furniture, central heating, hot water all year round and a water well.

Location: Shmelsani, near doctors' housing estate.

For appointments call tel. 668236 and 668384

ALCAZAR HOTEL

WHERE THE SUN NEVER SETS

where better for Christmas & New Year with our exclusive features

"The only VIDEO DISCO in Jordan"

"The only SAUNA and WHIRLPOOL in Aqaba"

"The only HEATED SWIMMING POOL in Aqaba"

where the PRICE is always RIGHT

For reservations: Tel. 4131 Tlx. 62242 Cazar Jo



MALIGAYANG PASKO!

Sa CORAL BEACH HOTEL-AQABA

Tayong lahat ay

MAG NOCHE BUENA

sa Disiembre 24, mula alas 8:00 ng gabi. Tunay na

PASKONG FILIPINO

Halina kayong lahat!

For reservation contact:

Aqaba Tel. No. 3521-3

FILIPINOS ONLY

TSIBOG! INOM AT SAYA!

China will send 200 athletes to Los Angeles Olympic Games

PEKING (R) — China will send 200 competitors to the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles even though they have a long way to go to catch up in some events, a senior sports official said on Friday.

Next year will be China's first full appearance at the Olympics since the revolution in 1949. Chinese Olympic Committee spokesman Wu Zhongyuan told a news conference.

"We don't think we will get very good results," he said.

But Wu said Chinese competitors stood a chance of winning medals in seven or eight events including gymnastics, diving, shooting, women's volleyball, some track and field events, weightlifting and perhaps fencing and archery.

"In other events we have a long way to catch up," he said.

China will also take part in men's basketball, swimming, judo, wrestling, cycling, rowing, canoeing and yachting, Wu said. He said 300 million of China's one billion people take part in some sports and this year some 111 million passed state fitness tests, so China has a large base to draw from.

Wu said the Chinese athletes had reached international standards in about a third of the 40 sports practised in China.

"That's to say we are still pretty

poor in two-thirds of the events," he added, listing swimming, some track events and football.

He said China would enlist Brazilian coaches to groom its soccer players next year, and Bulgarians have been helping with rhythmic gymnastics.

Whether China enters further events in Los Angeles such as men's volleyball and water polo, will depend on performances in qualification tournaments early next year, Wu said.

According to Wu, China's first Olympic entry was a one-man squad and his coach at the 10th Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1932. The athlete, a sprinter, got nowhere.

After the 1949 revolution China sent some competitors to the 1952 Helsinki games but they were late and only took part in the swimming.

China then left the International Olympic Committee because the IOC recognised Taiwan. They rejoined in 1979 — just in time to boycott the 1980 Moscow Games.

The Chinese attended the winter Olympics in Lake Placid in 1979. Next February at Sarajevo a squad of 40 Chinese will enter speed and figure skating, alpine and nordic skiing, and the biathlon.

For the 1984 Olympics, the

Chinese government is investing three million yuan (\$1.5 m) for training, housing, transport and extra food to supplement the normally austere Chinese diet. About 100 coaches, doctors and officials will accompany the competitors.

Most of the Olympic squad are to gather in Peking in April for intensive training. Meanwhile, they are trying to enter as many international competitions as possible.

China's competitors have mainly been chosen on the basis of performances at last year's Asian Games in India, where China won the most medals, and in the fifth national games in China.

Wu said China hoped Taiwan would join China in sending a joint team to the United States. But if it went separately as China-Taipei, using the flag and emblem approved by the International Olympic Committee, China would not object.

Asked whether China would attend the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, Wu said the question was not yet on China's agenda, as all efforts were being put into preparations for the Olympics.

However, officials have indicated that China will take part in the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988, despite the fact that China does not recognise South Korea.

Rain washes out 1st day of Madras test

MADRAS, India (R) — Incessant rain over the past two days has already washed out the opening day in the sixth and final cricket test between India and West Indies which was due to start here Saturday.

With the ground waterlogged and further rain forecast, there is no possibility of play on the first of the five days. The rest day was arranged to coincide with Christmas Day, on Sunday, so there could then be four full days of play, but only if the rain ceased on Saturday.

The match will not affect the outcome of the series in which West Indies have a winning 3-1 lead.

The pitch has been protected by the best covering facilities at any test venue in India and the ground has a reputation for draining quickly.

Elaborate arrangements have also been made to mop up the out-

field, but several hours of sunshine will be needed before the ground is restored to a playable condition.

Test matches in Madras have been hit by rain more often than at any of the regular centres, this being the third instance in the last six seasons.

This rain-hit test could be Clive Lloyd's last as West Indies captain. He relinquished the leadership after his country's defeat by India in the one-day World Cup final at Lord's last June, but was persuaded to stay on for at least the current tour.

It includes West Indies' participation in the one-day triangular tournament starting in Australia on January 8 and also involving the host country and Pakistan.

Lloyd, who celebrated his 39th birthday just before setting out on the trip, has captained West Indies in a world record 59 tests. Peter May, who led England 41 times, is

next best.

Lloyd is non-committal about his future in international cricket, but after scoring two hundreds and two half centuries in the current series, he might be inclined to continue playing test cricket, even if he decides to step down from the captaincy.

In the next 12 months, West Indies are due to play a home series against Australia and make full use of England and Australia.

With Saturday's scheduled start likely to be delayed at least until Monday, neither side was inclined to name their team on Friday.

But West Indies are expected to pick their 11 from the same short list of 12 they announced before the fifth test.

India will choose from a squad of 15 among whom are three bowlers who have not played in the series — uncapped pacemen Chetan Sharma and Raju Kulkarni, at least one of whom is certain to be included, and leg-spinner Sivaramakrishnan.

Asian Olympic contenders face bans

ZURICH (R) — Malaysia and Thailand, still in the running for finals places in the 1984 Olympic soccer tournament, may be barred from qualifying after playing in an unlicensed event, the International Football Federation (FIFA) said on Thursday.

Players from three other Asian countries and four South American teams face penalties for their involvement.

FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter told Reuters he was surprised to learn during a visit to South-East Asia last week that a so-called "All Stars America" team were making a tour of Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

The touring team comprised players from Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

"One match had already taken place in Malaysia. On December 14 we teleaxed the four South American football associations asking them for explanations as no FIFA approval had been granted," Blatter said.

"With the exception of Paraguay, the others said no permission had been given for players affiliated with them to participate."

Are you tired of living far from the city? Are you tired of the city noises?

Do you want to live in the city yet have the calm atmosphere of the suburbs?

Search no further, for this is the perfect place. It is in the heart of the city yet has the tranquility of the suburbs.

Furnished newly with modern furniture, has three bedrooms, one living room, one sitting room, dining room, modern bathroom, W.C.

For your convenience it also has an operative independent phone and central heating.

Conveniently located near 5th Circle Umm Uthainah quarters, Babil Street, near Friends Supermarket.

Reasonably priced. Must see to believe. First come first served basis.

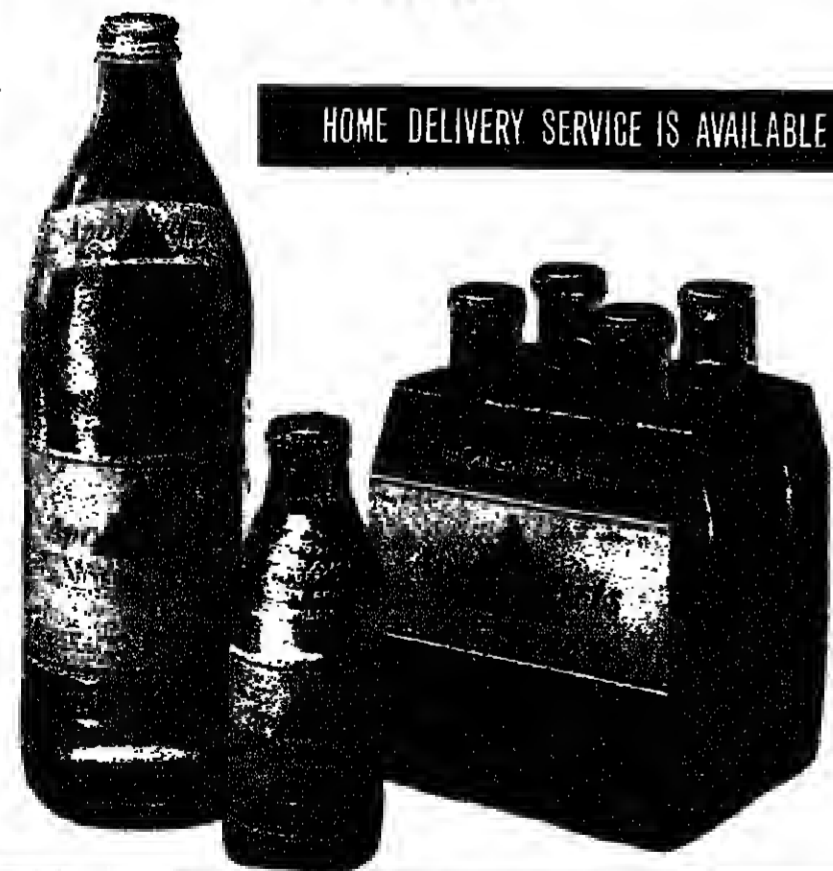
Don't wait until tomorrow, or it will be gone. Call us now or come to see it.

Tel: 812843, or follow the map.



APOLLINARIS MINERAL WATER FROM GERMANY EXPORTED TO 46 COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE



Please Phone Sole Agents In Jordan

INTERNATIONAL FOODSTUFFS CO.

TELEPHONES: Wholesale Stores: 21777, 25866 / Coldstores & Warehouse: 76033

Head Offices: 66178, 660375 / Hico Supermarket, Abdali Str.: 661413

For All Embassies, Hotels, Restaurants & Supermarkets.

AVAILABLE IN 1 Ltr., 0.33 Ltr. & 0.20 Ltr. BOTTLES.

July 1983

Chinese evade paying taxes

PEKING (R) — Chinese enterprises owe 2 billion yuan (\$1 billion) worth of unpaid taxes and surplus profits, the Economic Daily reported Friday.

The official newspaper said that according to a national audit launched in October, 1.1 billion yuan (\$550 million) worth of outstanding taxes and other debts would be recovered by the state and 600 million yuan (\$300 million) had already been paid.

The remaining 300 million yuan (\$150 million) has been written off as the money has apparently already been spent.

The paper said several tens of

thousands of officials had been sent all over China to carry out the audit.

It quoted a finance ministry spokesman as saying many enterprises were not auditing their own accounts effectively and outside officials had to be called in to check on them.

"It is necessary for enterprises to carry out their own audits, but apart from auditing themselves they should also audit each other and carry out spot checks," the spokesman said.

"People should be sent to carry out spot checks on enterprises with high incomes and those

where financial control is lax," the spokesman added.

Chinese factories have been obliged since June to pay a 55 per cent tax on their profits rather than turn over all surplus income to the state.

The new system is aimed at increasing responsibility for profits and losses and ending the previous reliance on state handouts.

But officials say tax evasion is a major problem and that many companies spend large amounts of money on illicit bonuses and entertainment despite repeated calls for austerity.

E.C. lifts restrictions against Soviet Union

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (E.C.) trade sanctions against the Soviet Union will be allowed to lapse at the end of this month, a community commission spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman said no community member state had proposed extending the import curbs which were imposed in March last year as a gesture of protest at the declaration of martial law in Poland in December 1981.

The spokesman told Reuters the import restrictions were no longer considered an appropriate response to the current situation in Poland and were being allowed to die quietly.

The trade restrictions against the Soviet Union stopped sales mainly of some luxury goods accounting for about \$140 million in annual trade, only 1.4 per cent of Moscow's exports to the community.

The European Commission at first suggested a ban on goods valued at an annual \$400 million but this was watered down by member states to a list of 60 items such as binoculars, caviar, pianos, and cathode ray tubes for black-and-white televisions.

Greece never agreed to adhere to the community import restrictions and Denmark objected for constitutional reasons to accepting Brussels' authority in the matter.

The limited trade ban was meant as an expression of the community's disapproval at what it saw as Moscow's role in the declaration of martial law in Poland.

The commission spokesman said he was unaware of Moscow

mission's plans and opened the way to the political agreement reached Thursday by member states.

Diplomats said the dire state of the community industry, with plants functioning on average at under 60 per cent of capacity, had jolted industry and governments into renewed cooperation.

Thursday's accord contrasted with the paralysis of decision-making among community member governments on the only slightly less urgent problems of budget reform and long-term controls on farm spending.

Diplomats said the steel agreement was reached only after a compromise was devised to satisfy conflicting Belgian and West German positions over a new system of certificates to accompany steel traded across national community frontiers.

The commission has said it wants the certificates for statistical reasons and dismissed fears by Belgium and Luxembourg, small states with big steel exporting interests, that West Germany could use the documents of block steel shipments at its frontiers.

The compromise specified that exporting countries, and not only importers, could complain to the commission when steel sales between 2 member states differed markedly from traditional levels.

The new system operates initially for 1 month only, because ministers have to meet again in January to renew the commission's mandate to administer production quotas and other crisis measures.

European stock markets hit new record highs

FRANKFURT (R) — A pre-Christmas buying spree sent share prices to record highs on many European stock exchanges Thursday.

Indices rose to record levels in Frankfurt, Paris, London and Amsterdam, encouraged by optimistic predictions Wednesday for 1984 by national forecasting institutions and the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In Frankfurt, the Commerzbank index, which measures the performance of 60 leading industrial and financial shares, rose to an all-time high of 1,134 points, up 4.01 from Wednesday and surpassing the 1,031.9 level that had stood as a record for the last 23 years.

The Paris stock exchange's all-share index closed at its highest ever level, continuing a record breaking rise which began earlier this year.

Falling French interest rates, which will cut industry's bor-

rowing costs, and tax concessions on share savings accounts, which must be used by the end of the year, helped to encourage investors to buy, pushing share prices higher.

The all-share index closed at 152.9 points, more than 50 per cent higher than at the start of the year.

In Amsterdam, Dutch shares moved sharply higher in active trading, sending the all-share index, the international and the industrial indices to 1983 highs.

Share prices continued to rise Thursday in London, with market sentiment aided by optimistic reports from the OECD and the treasury on prospects for the British economy in 1984.

The Financial Times index of 30 leading shares rose to an all-time high of 775.9, after hitting a previous record of 772.11 Wednesday.

In Frankfurt, stock market dealers said that the buying interest was widely spread and extended to banking and heavy engineering companies, which have been left

out of this year's rally.

"Good signs have been building for weeks. But all of a sudden they created a positive mood on the stock exchange," one dealer said.

West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, reported this week that the economic recovery was now on a firmer basis, and research institutes here have recently published a series of optimistic forecasts for the economy.

Even the "unusually modest" West German recovery predicted Wednesday by the Paris-based OECD was viewed positively here.

Commerzbank's analysts recently predicted that the favourable mood on the stock exchange should continue into the new year, with corporate profits set to rise 15 per cent in 1984, after a similar rise in 1983.

But other analysts feel the rally could be drawing to a close.

Allianz matches BAT bid for Eagle Star

LONDON (R) — West Germany's Allianz Versicherung Thursday matched but did not improve on, the offer made last week by its rival, to the takeover battle for Eagle Star insurance.

In the latest move in a stock market chess game whose stakes are approaching £1 billion (\$1.4 billion) the Munich-based insurance group bid £6.75 (\$9.61) per share, the same amount offered by the London-based BAT Industries.

Thursday's Allianz offer, which values Eagle Star at a London market record of £934 million (\$1.33 billion), came after a ruling Wednesday by Britain's takeover panel that all bids for the company must be made by Dec. 30.

The swift response leaves time for further offers in the bitterly-fought battle, which began when Allianz, which already owns 30 per cent of Eagle Star, made its first move for full control on Oct. 19.

"The amendment by the tak-

cover panel is intended to prevent either of the rivals from capping the other's offer at the last minute.

Eagle Star has consistently preferred the approach from BAT, whose holdings in tobacco, retailing and manufacturing make it Britain's third-largest industrial combine, to that of the German group.

Eagle Star and BAT both welcomed the panel's ruling. But Allianz' merchant advisers, Morgan Grenfell, said it meant the takeover battle "has become a sort of Russian roulette."

A commentary in the London Financial Times Thursday criticised the workings of the takeover panel's rule book and called on it to show more firmness.

While the cutoff date was fair and would bring the takeover battle to an end, "it is obviously unsatisfactory that the future ownership of an important British company should be determined by a last-minute shoot-out," said the commentary.

Simex to start financial futures trading in May

SINGAPORE (R) — The Singapore International Monetary Exchange (SIMEX) plans to start trading financial futures on May 2, linking up with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) so members of each can use both markets.

Simex Chairman Ng Kok Song said Thursday.

Simex will launch financial fu-

tures trading with contracts in gold, Eurodollars and the yen.

Mr. Ng described the market link-up as "a major first step towards 24-hour a day trading around the world," noting it would enable investors to play the financial futures markets during both Singapore and Chicago trading hours.

The Simex-CME scheme would be the first link by international futures markets enabling traders to offset directly an open position taken in one exchange with an opposite position in the other.

"The system will increase the liquidity of the Singapore market and help to reduce the transaction costs and risks of the traders and

their customers," Mr. Ng told a press conference.

Members of the Singapore exchange approved the trading link-up Thursday, and also adopted measures to increase the protection of customers using the exchange and more prudent standards for trading margins, he said.

He said in addition to companies which use futures markets to speculate or hedge their investments, the exchange hoped individual investors would show active interest.

The exchange was putting together a package of incentives which would reduce the cost of trading for individual investors, and allow them to buy a seat in the exchange on instalment or lease terms.

Mr. Ng said Simex also hoped eventually to add further trading instruments, such as crude oil futures and stock index futures based on Japanese securities.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4288/4303	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2453/58	Canadian dollars
	2.7620/50	West German marks
	3.1050/70	Dutch guilders
	2.2000/30	Swiss francs
	56.28/35	Belgian francs
	8.4475/4575	French francs
	1675.50/1677.50	Italian lire
	233.75/95	Japanese yen
	8.0700/0901	Swedish crowns
	7.7800/7950	Norwegian crowns
	4.9900/10.1100	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	379.75/380.25	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until 7 pm this Christmas Eve there are apt to be some upsets or difficulties which require your self control. But the rest of the evening is excellent for your well being.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Before lunchtime you can get some excellent results from inspiring ideas you have. Take care not to argue with others. Be precise.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do what the family desires this morning, but be tactful with your mate. This evening is good for the social side of life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can handle those communications well this morning. Today is rather tense, but find solace in the bosom of your family.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) This morning is good for handling secret matters but don't get nervous about work that has to be done. Take it in stride.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Handle personal affairs in the morning. Do not be extravagant. Be practical with your money. Surprise your mate with a gift.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Private matters can be handled to your benefit early, but you may have a problem later. Handle it wisely. This evening is quiet and serene.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good friend can give some fine advice this morning. You may get a nice surprise that will make you very happy. Spread good cheer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to be of assistance to a bigwig this morning. Don't add to your expenses after lunch. Celebrate Christmas Eve ideally.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are inspired in the morning, but don't be forceful with others. Complete all your work. Drive more carefully than usual.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Garner that date you need this morning. You will be very charming and inspired this evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Do whatever your mate requests of you this morning, then buy a fine present. Avoid a friend who is a troublemaker in the afternoon.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Fix up your home in the morning. Don't argue with anyone in the evening. You are popular and admired. Stop feeling depressed.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be someone who will have inspired ideas on being successful, but upon reaching adulthood, may suddenly want to make complete changes, due to outside pressures, so teach perseverance. This could be a pillar of the community.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword

by N.E. Campbell

ACROSS

- Chameleon
- Soft drink
- Ossicle
- Admitte
- Entranceway
- Consumer
- Common
- Contraction
- Film spool
- Latvian seaport
- Get into trouble
- A slaughter
- Wraithlike
- Impoverished
- Sleeping sickness carriers
- Stop!

DOWN

- Canary food
- O.T. book
- Military post
- Numerical prefix
- Very loyal
- Inebriated
- Long and thin
- River to the Seine
- Subside
- Paper quantity
- Addict?
- Trumpeter
- Intiment
- Soul
- Ms. Adams
- Exhort

30 Aunt Sp.

31 High school students' abbr.

32 Writing pad

33 Case for small articles

34 Sea eagles

35 Embroidered

36 — de France

37 Operate

38 Landed properties

39 Balkan country

40 Wears away

41 Game official, for short

42 Years' partner

43 Groom's

44 A Meredith

45 High nest (help)

46 Pluribus —

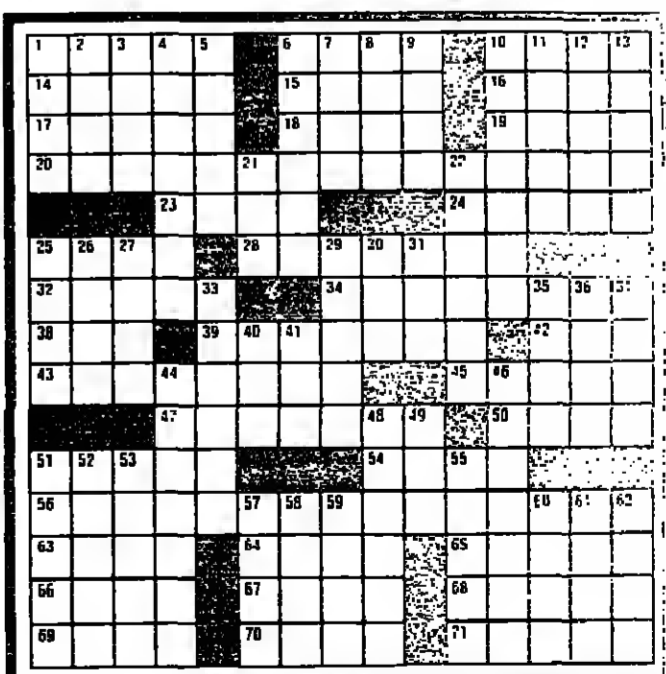
47 Hard to find

48 Work units

49 Deck post

50 Former Hungarian premier, Nsgy

51 N. Mex. zrt colony



© 1983 Tribune Company Syndicate, Inc. All Rights Reserved

WORLD

Irish premier demands end to IRA problem

LONDON (R) — Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitz-Gerald called Friday for an urgent effort by Britain and Ireland to combat the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Writing in the Times newspaper, a week after the IRA killed seven people in the two countries, he said that behind the violence was the intractable problem of Northern Ireland "which we have an overwhelming moral obligation to solve."

A car bomb planted by the IRA, which is fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, killed five people outside Harrods department store in London last Saturday — a day after IRA gunmen shot dead two members of the Irish security forces freeing kidnapped businessman Don Tidy.

Mr. FitzGerald said the Irish people now felt "a stronger sense of shared grief and shared outrage" with Britons than at any time he could recall.

He called on Britain's government, political parties and the public to join the Irish "in a commitment against the gunmen, a commitment to exclude them from a key in our future."

"That can only mean joining with constitutional politicians in Ireland in a single urgent effort to create structures which will bring peace and political progress," he said.

In Belfast, authorities are on the alert for a Christmas blitz by urban

guerrillas and security around shopping crowds is as tight as ever.

Belfast shoppers are frisked and have their bags searched as they pass through a "ring of steel" — a network of fences and gates protecting the city centre from bombers.

Police and British soldiers patrol the streets wearing bullet-proof jackets, carrying high velocity rifles, incongruous among the bustling crowds laden with parcels.

Armoured cars — some festooned with holly — escort cash deliveries to and from the big stores and banks with soldiers scanning the crowds from slit windows.

Twelve people have died in Northern Ireland in the last month in IRA attacks and revenge shootings by Protestant paramilitary groups.

The violence has spilled over into Britain and the Irish republic. In London an IRA bomb killed five last Saturday, while south of the border an IRA group shot dead a policeman and a soldier.

Surveillance has been stepped up at sea and airports and on cross-border roads to ensure that any wanted men who might have

fled do not slip back into the province among the many thousands of emigrants returning home for Christmas.

The last few days have seen a lull in guerrilla activity, bringing speculation about an unofficial seasonal truce.

Some republican sources reported a row over tactics was under way in the IRA leadership after last Saturday's car bombing outside Harrods department store in London.

The IRA command in Dublin said the attack was unauthorised and apologised for the civilian deaths.

In Manchester, England, detectives questioned a convicted Irish republican guerrilla in connection with the Harrods bomb blast.

Also, a man held in Birmingham was due to be questioned there by a London police anti-terrorist squad member.

The Manchester man, not immediately named, left prison a year ago after serving a sentence for his part in a 1974 Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing campaign that killed 21 people in Birmingham, police said.

In London, one of four people held for questioning since Wednesday was released Thursday. Police sources said they understood none of the four was suspected of direct involvement in the bombing.

SPD rivals Willy Brandt and Hans-Jochen Vogel, as well as longtime right-wing foe Franz-Josef Strauss, joined leading industrialists and politicians of all major West German parties in praise of Mr. Schmidt's statesmanship and his accomplishments.



Helmut Schmidt marks 65th birthday

HAMBURG (R) — Former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt celebrated his 65th birthday Friday amid a glow of praise from fellow international statesmen and ringing plaudits from his political rivals.

Ex-President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France, U.S. ambassador to Bonn Arthur Burns, Dutch Ex-Prime Minister Andries van Agt and U.S. diplomat Henry Kissinger feted Mr. Schmidt at a glittering birthday-evening party that went on past midnight in his home town of Hamburg, which named him citizen of honour.

Mr. Schmidt led West Germany from 1974 until last year at the head of a Social Democrat (SPD)-Liberal coalition, but lost power in September 1982 when his liberal coalition partners switched allegiance to the Christian Democrats of Helmut Kohl.

SPD rivals Willy Brandt and Hans-Jochen Vogel, as well as longtime right-wing foe Franz-Josef Strauss, joined leading industrialists and politicians of all major West German parties in praise of Mr. Schmidt's statesmanship and his accomplishments.

Indians vote in crucial northern polls

NEW DELHI (R) — Five North Indian states were voting in by-elections Friday which could be a major factor in Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's calculations on when to hold national elections, expected some time next year.

An estimated 3.5 million Indians qualify to vote Friday in the biggest test of electoral opinion in the key Hindi-speaking belt of northern India since 1980.

General elections that year returned Mrs. Gandhi to power with a two-thirds majority in parliament.

While the 66-year-old prime minister does not have to call a poll until January 1985, most opposition figures expect an earlier ballot, possibly in March or October.

The four states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana command an automatic majority in the lower house of parliament.

'El Gordo' lottery plays Santa Claus to Spaniards

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Dozens of unemployed people became rich when they shared a large chunk of "El Gordo" (the fat one), this year's \$73 million first prize in Spain's Christmas lottery draw.

Rejoicing workers from the poor and drought-hit regions of Andalusia and Extremadura Thursday besieged the Barcelona lottery branch which had sold the lucky number, 53288.

Residents of the old quarter of the Basque city of Bilbao, badly damaged by floods after torrential rains last August, won the equivalent of \$35 million as the second prize.

Besides El Gordo, people in Barcelona also won parts of the third, fourth and fifth prizes, grossing more than a third of the \$3 billion peseta (\$334 million) total prize money.

In one suburb, where housewives had been presented with small shares of a ticket as gifts from two local butchers and a fishmonger, the draw Thursday morning delighted families whose breadwinners have been out of work for months.

Two telephone operators each won a 1.6 billion peseta (\$11.1 million) share of El Gordo.

In Madrid, a group of 50 ushers in Spain's parliament won 12 million pesetas (\$76,000).

Families, offices and even whole villages go through the annual ritual of clubbing together to take part in the draw.

The entire country came to a halt as Spaniards crowded around television sets and radios to listen to the shrill voices of orphan sch-

oolboys calling out the winning numbers in a solemn public ceremony.

"Spaniards might not believe in God, but they do believe in the lottery," says Antonio Gomez Guierrez, director of the state-run national lottery.

Mr. Gomez says Spain's national lottery, originally set up as a fund-raising measure by Bourbon monarch Charles III in 1763, is the most generous of its kind in the world. Seventy per cent of the money collected is distributed as prizes.

"We pay up religiously, whatever happens," Mr. Gomez says.

The traditional coloured tickets, which later become collector's items, are treated like banknotes by their owners, many of whom pore over official lists of past winners with the feverish enthusiasm of punters checking a racehorse's form.

Some families have reserved the same number for 50 years, passing it from father to son like a family heirloom.

Lottery officials believe the tradition of El Gordo breeds a spirit of generosity. "It's an explosion of joy," Mr. Gomez says.

"People always want to know if it's shared out or not. Then everybody's happy," says 80-year-old Antonio Bellon, a former journalist who has spent 50 years covering the lottery.

Last year's El Gordo winner, a 35-year-old Madrid man, enraged lottery watchers by refusing to reveal his identity.

"People are happy when the money goes to those who don't have much," Mr. Bellon says.

D'Estaing denies cover-up of Elf-Aquitaine scandal

PARIS (R) — Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has rejected charges that his government had tried to conceal a French oil prospecting scandal in the 1970s.

In an emotional outburst on French television, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing produced a copy of a confidential report on the affair which a member of the present socialist government suggested had been destroyed.

After giving details of the affair, in which the state-owned Elf-Aquitaine oil company lost some 500 million francs (\$62.5 million), the former president Thursday referred to the charges against his centre-right administration.

He then produced a thick document and declared: "The report, here it is, this report that was destroyed. Here it is, and I ask the cameraman to show it to Frenchmen and women."

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said he had recovered it from presidential



Giscard d'Estaing

archives, and that it was one of six copies produced in January 1981.

In answer to questions, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said the report did not question in any way the conduct of political or industrial leaders in the affair.

He said the research had been classified secret because of the potential importance of the proposed system, which had also been claimed to be capable of detecting submarines.

U.K. villagers vote for death

LONDON (R) — Sixty-one inhabitants of an English village have decided that they want the local doctor to help them commit suicide in the event of a nuclear war.

Village doctor Richard Lawson, 37, an anti-nuclear activist, called the public meeting at Congresbury in Western England to ask whether the villagers wanted him to plan for euthanasia in a nuclear war.

Sixty-one villagers voted for suicide and 16 voted against but the great bulk of the 4,000 inhabitants did not turn up.

Lawson said he would be willing to stockpile lethal cyanide tablets so that the villagers could opt for what he called a dignified death to "deliver them from their misery."

It is illegal in Britain to help anyone commit suicide and Dr. Lawson said that he did not think he would be allowed to stockpile cyanide for this purpose.



U.K. police detain Father Christmas

LONDON (R) — Police took an elderly Father Christmas from a British shopping centre to the local police station after he was accused of hitting a boy on the ear. Police said Fred Kennington, 72, employed as "Santa Claus" at a shop in Chalfont, southeast England, aimed a blow at a boy who gave him an obscene reply when asked: "What would you like for Christmas?" But they said, the boy ducked and Santa hit the next youngster in line, whose mother called the police.

Irish police fight bootleggers

DUBLIN (R) — Irish police have begun a pre-Christmas crackdown on the manufacture and sale of homemade liquor, known as poteen, which can be twice as strong as commercial brands for half the price. In what has become a December ritual, police said they raided illicit stills on remote islands off the west coast where the fiery liquid, usually made from potatoes, was being made. A spokesman for the Irish Whiskers Association blamed high taxes for raising the price of commercial liquor to around £13 a bottle. Poteen sells for about £5 a bottle.

Court approves 250,000-bulb display

NEW ORLEANS (R) — A Copeland has won court approval for a bright Christmas — a 250,000 bulb display. Copeland's neighbours had taken him to court in an attempt to force a blackout in the garden of his home. They said his Christmas display — bright, lit palm trees, huge reindeer, and a manger — attracted a quarter of a million people a year.

Copeland said he was delighted by the judge's decision and described his neighbours as "people who probably won't enjoy anything."

Johnny Cash gets drug treatment

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Country singer Johnny Cash is undergoing hospital treatment to stop himself becoming dependent on pain killing drugs, his manager said. Cash, the 51-year-old singer of "A Boy Named Sue," "I Walked the Line" and other hits, took the drugs recently while being treated for blood poisoning and for a bleeding duodenal ulcer, manager Lou Rubin said. The singer, who recently told a television interviewer he swallowed up to 100 pills a day during a drug-taking bout about 20 years ago, is on a 5130-a-day anti-drug hospital programme.

Thatcher says new coin is unpopular

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she does not like Britain's new £1 coin and indicated a change of heart over plans to phase out the one pound note it is intended to replace. The small, gold-coloured coin, introduced earlier this year, has not found favour with most people.

Taipei celebrates return of statues

TAIPEI (R) — Thousands of Buddhists thronged the streets of Taipei to the sound of firecrackers, drums and gongs in a thanksgiving parade for the discovery of religious images stolen throughout Taiwan. The crowds were welcoming the return of statues of Chinese deities which vanished from temples and homes three months ago and were found by police in a vacant apartment in central Taipei.

U.K. policewoman wins court case

LONDON (R) — A British policewoman banned from her car patrol because she got on too well with a married male colleague won a sex discrimination court case. The successful action brought by Wendy De Launay, 25, at an industrial tribunal was the first of its kind against London's metropolitan police force. After her victory, Ms. De Launay said she had no intention of leaving the police force.

Peking decides to let Mao share mausoleum space with arch rival

PEKING (R) — Chairman Mao Tse-tung will share his mausoleum with displays honouring his arch-rival Liu Shaoqi and two other dead Chinese leaders, a Communist Party spokesman announced.

Four new exhibition rooms, including one to Mao, will be opened in the mausoleum on Peking's Tiananmen Square during celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of Mao's birth on Dec. 26, Gao Liang told a news conference.

The move reflects China's current policy of regarding Mao's thought as the "crystallisation of the wisdom of the Communist

Party" in which all four leaders contributed, he said.

Mao's old colleague Liu Shaoqi tried to ease him out of power after his attempt at rapid economic growth had failed disastrously.

But Mao was devoted to his mother-in-law and always remembered her birthday, his son said in an article describing the late Chinese leader as having great respect for his elders.

The article was written by the late chairman's son Mao Anqing with his wife Shao Hua.

Obviously written under strict

party supervision, the article gives a rare insight into aspects of the chairman's private life, a topic surrounded by secrecy.

Mao Anqing said although his father often forgot his own birthday, he frequently sent his mother-in-law gifts and paid for her to be buried with her husband.

Anqing's mother was Mao's first wife, Yang Kaihui, who was executed by the nationalists in 1931. She is now a national heroine but her name was taboo when the chairman's third wife, Jiang Qing, wielded influence during the cultural revolution.

Clark replaces 3 of James Watt's men

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Interior Secretary William Clark has replaced three top officials who had served under his predecessor James Watt, including the department's number two and the head of a controversial offshore oil and gas leasing programme.

The shakeup was announced late Thursday after strong pressure from environmental groups which had urged Mr. Clark to remove Mr. Watt's assistants whom they viewed as architects of his policies favouring development over conservation.

One department official, who asked not to be named, said Mr. Clark made the changes mainly to

bring in his own team.

The moves could affect the department's offshore leasing programme, he said, adding: "Obviously it's got to have some impact on policy."

Those replaced were undersecretary J.J. Simmons, deputy assistant secretary for energy and minerals Perry Pendley and minerals management services director David Russell.

Mr. Simmons, the department's second in command, will be replaced by Ann McLaughlin, assistant treasury secretary for public affairs.

Mr. Pendley, who had charge of the U.S. geological survey, the

bureau of mines and the minerals management service, was replaced by reclamation commissioner Robert Broadbent.

Mr. Russell, who worked under Mr. Pendley as the supervisor of minerals management, the agency which ran the offshore leasing programme, will be replaced by William Beitenberg, a high-ranking career official at the department.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
©1983 Tribune Company Syndicate, Inc.

THE SECRET IS IN THE TIMING

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 8 7 3
♥ J 9 7 6
♦ K 2
♣ A 7 4

WEST
♠ A J 5
♥ Q 10 8
♦ 9 6 4
♣ J 10 5 5

EAST
♠ K 2
♥ 5 4
♦ 8 7 5 3
♣ K Q 9 6 3

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1♥ Pass
2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣.

Get out the opponents' trumps if you can afford it. But it is usually correct to leave an outstanding master trump in a defender's hand.

With his spade suit not bid, South chose to open a heart in third suit. After North's raise, South's hand revealed to 19 points, so he jumped to game.

West led the top of his broken sequence in clubs. East encouraged with the nine, and declarer won the ace. With two sure spade losers and a trump loser, declarer couldn't afford to lose a third spade or to run short of trumps. He could resort to a finesse of the jack of spades, but he found an elegant line that required no more than careful timing.

Declarer won the ace of clubs and ruffed a club in hand. Next came the two top hearts, to which everyone followed. Declarer crossed to the table's king of diamonds and ruffed his remaining club. Now he simply ran diamond. When the third round of diamonds went through, the contract was home. A spade was sluffed from dummy, and another went on the fourth diamond.

Note that declarer must get his club ruff in early. If he draws two trumps and then starts on diamonds, a clever defender will refuse to ruff. Now West can win the first spade and cash the queen of hearts, and declarer cannot come to more than nine tricks.

طراحت التلوي